

RAJASTHAN DISTRICT

GAZETTEERS



सत्यमेव जयते

CHURU

By
K K SEHGAL

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P R E F A C E

The area now comprising the district of Churu formed a part of the erstwhile princely State of Bikaner. Founded by Rao Bika, a Rathore prince from Jodhpur, about five centuries ago, Bikaner was one of the premier States which merged into Rajasthan. The district has a significant place in the history of this region. Many a decisive battle was fought on its sandy wastes. Some important trade routes passed through the district before the advent of the railways and Churu was, in those times, a flourishing trade centre. Mount Stuart Elphinstone, a British Political Officer, visited Churu in 1806 *en route* to Kabul and was much impressed by the prosperity of its residents. The enterprising mercantile community of the district is, even now, known throughout the country for its spirit of initiative and drive in the field of trade and industry.

The first Gazetteer of the Bikaner State, written by Captain P W. Powlett, was published in 1874. Erskine's Gazetteer of Western Rajputana States and Bikaner Residency was published about three decades later in 1909. A brief description of the State and its constituent parts was also included in the Imperial Gazetteer of India and its provincial series. The Gazetteers published during the British period, however, contained only such information, as would prove useful to a colonial power in the governance of a vast country like India. The Gazetteers of the princely States, therefore, were primarily meant to serve as a guide to the political officers accredited to them. The social structure in those days being feudal, the description of the ruling classes, their traditions and customs, were dealt with more conspicuously, than the life of the common man, his urges and aspirations. Although a valuable source material for the scholars and historians, these works have become out-of-date in the present context of affairs.

The country has witnessed revolutionary changes in political, social and economic spheres during the past few decades. The revision of the Gazetteers was, therefore, taken up with a view to broadening their scope and making them up-to-date. The Ministry of Education, Government of India, drew up an All India Scheme and requested the State Governments to take up the compilation of District Gazetteers as a Centrally sponsored scheme. The new series of District Gazetteers

reflect the emerging democratic pattern of life in the country since independence. Under this scheme Rajasthan has published so far the District Gazetteers of Barmer, Bundi, Jhalawar, Ajmer, Sirohi, Alwar and Tonk. The present volume is the eighth in the series

The material available in the old Gazetteers has been used freely particularly in Chapters dealing with subjects like topography, rivers, geology etc, where no change in the text was required. The bulk of the information had, however, to be collected from a number of publications, Government and private and from other sources. The data included in the volume, unless specifically mentioned in the text otherwise pertain to the period ending 1966-67. The map of the district appended to this volume, has been prepared by the Survey of India.

I am greatly indebted to the various departments of the State and Central Governments, Semi-Government institutions and individuals who have helped us by extending their co-operation and making the necessary material available. I must make a special mention and express my thanks to Dr. P N. Chopra, M A, PH D, Editor, District Gazetteers and the staff of Central Gazetteers Unit, Union Ministry of Education, New Delhi for their effective role in planning and co-ordinating the work of preparation of the District Gazetteers. The Unit scrutinised the draft of this volume with great care and made several helpful suggestions with a view to improving the standard and quality of the publication. We are also grateful to Shri R D Mathur, the former Chief Secretary and Shri Z S Jhala, the present Chief Secretary to Government of Rajasthan, for guiding and helping us in the work.

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The officers and staff of the Directorate of Gazetteers have done useful team work in the compilation of this volume.

JAIPUR

Dated March 20th, 1970

K K SEHGAL

Director, District Gazetteers
RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR.

CONVERSION TABLE

Length

- 1 inch = 2.54 centimetres
- 1 foot = 30.48 centimetres
- 1 yard = 91.44 centimetres
- 1 mile = 1.61 kilometres

Area

- 1 square foot = 0.093 square metres
- 1 square yard = 0.836 square metre
- 1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres
- 1 acre = 0.405 hectare

Volume

- 1 cubic foot = 0.028 cubic metre

Capacity

- 1 gallon (Imperial) = 4.55 litres
- 1 seer (80 tola) = 0.937 litre

Weight

- 1 tola = 11.66 grams
- 1 chhatank = 58.32 grams
- 1 seer = 933.10 grams
- 1 maund = 37.32 kilograms
- 1 seer (24 tolas) = 279.93 grams
- 1 ounce = 28.35 grams
- 1 pound = 453.59 grams
- 1 ton = 1016.05 kilograms

Temperature

- $t^{\circ}\text{ Fahrenheit} = \frac{9}{5} (T^{\circ}\text{ centigrade}) + 32$

Metric Weights & Measures

Length

- 10 millimetres = 1 centimetre
- 100 centimetres = 1 metre
- 1000 metres = 1 kilometre

Area

100 square millimetres = 1 square centimetre

10,000 square centimetres = 1 square metre or centiare

100 square metre = 1 are

100 ares = 1 hectare

100 hectares or 1,000,000 square metres = 1 sq k metre

Volume

1,000,000 cubic centimetres = 1 cubic metre

Capacity

1000 millilitres = 1 litre

1000 litres = 1 kilolitre

Weight

1000 milligrams = 1 gram

1000 grams = 1 kilogram

100 kilograms = 1 quintal

1000 kilograms = 1 tonne

200 milligrams = 1 carat

GAZETTEER OF CHURU DISTRICT

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

INTRODUCTORY

Origin of the name

The district of Churu, named after the headquarters (which is said to have been founded by, and named after, a Jat called Chuhru in or about 1620 A. D.) is bounded on the north by Ganganagar district, on the east by Sikar and Jhunjhunun districts of Rajasthan and Hissar district of Haryana, on the south by Nagaur district and on the west by Bikaner district.

Location

The district is situated in the middle portion of the north-east of Rajasthan between 27°24' to 29°00' latitude and 73°40' to 75°41' longitude.

The total area of the district as on 1-1-1966 according to the Central Statistical Organisation, Department of Statistics, Government of India, was 16,866 square kilometres. It occupies nearly five per cent of the area of the State and stands eighth in respect of area amongst the districts of Rajasthan.

The population of the district, according to 1961 Census, is 6,59,011, out of which 3,40,048 are males and 3,18,963 females. The density of population per square kilometre is 39 (101 per sq mile).¹ The district ranks fifteenth, in population, among the twenty six districts of Rajasthan

Administrative changes

The area now included in the district had been a part of the former princely State of Bikaner, which was divided into *nizamats*. Out of these, two *nizamats* viz., Sujangarh and Reni, covered most of the area now grouped in the existing territory of the district. The Sujangarh *nizamat* was divided into four tahsils headquartered at Sujangarh, Dungargarh, Ratangarh and Sardarshahar. The Reni *nizamat* was also divided into four tahsils namely Churu, Rajgarh, Bhadra and Nohar, (the last two of these tahsils now form part of Ganganagar district). The heads of the *nizamats* were called *nazims*

¹ Census of India, 1961, Vol XIV, Rajasthan, pt. II-A, p 15

The district administration of the erstwhile Bikaner State was reorganised in 1948 and a district of Churu was created, comprising three tahsils (Churu, Rajgarh and Taranagar, formerly in the *Reni nizamat*) It was divided into two sub-divisions—Rajgarh and Ratangarh, each in the charge of an Assistant Commissioner under the Deputy Commissioner of the district Each tahsil was put under the jurisdiction of a tahsildar assisted with one or two naib-tahsildars

At the time of the merger of the Bikaner State into Rajasthan in 1949, no territorial changes were made in the formation of this district Only the Deputy Commissioner was designated as Collector and the District Magistrate and the Assistant Commissioners as Assistant Collectors and Sub-divisional Magistrates. At that time the district comprised the following sub-divisions and tahsils .

| Names of the Sub-divisions | Tahsils |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Ratangarh | 1 Ratangarh |
| | 2 Sardarshahr |
| | 3 Dungargarh |
| | 4 Sujangarh |
| 2 Rajgarh | 1 Rajgarh |
| | 2 Churu |
| | 3 Taranagar |

After the formation of Rajasthan, some changes in the tahsils were made by transferring a few villages from one tahsil to another In 1959, one village named Gugalawa was transferred¹ from Jhunjhunun tahsil, having an area of 6 square kilometres

For administrative convenience, the area of the district was regrouped to form three sub-divisions and the tahsils were readjusted in the new groupings The following table² gives the names of the sub-divisions, tahsils, number of towns and villages with their respective areas and population

1 As per Government of Rajasthan notification No F A1 (723) Rev D/58 of 5-1-1959

2 The table has been prepared on the basis of information published in *Census of India 1961, Vol XIV, Rajasthan*, part II-A, p 22

| Sub-division | | Tahsil | | Number of Towns and villages | Area (sq km) | Population |
|--------------|-----------|--------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Churu | 1 | Churu | 91 | 1589 2 | 97,674 |
| | | 2 | Sardarshahr | 177 | 3846 9 | 98,694 |
| 2 | Rajgarh | 1. | Rajgarh | 187 | 2202 3 | 1,15,467 |
| | | 2 | Taranagar | 111 | 1825.6 | 57,014 |
| 3 | Ratangarh | 1. | Dungargarh | 95 | 3003 7 | 66,802 |
| | | 2 | Ratangarh | 95 | 1698 0 | 90,262 |
| | | 3 | Sujargarh | 159 | 2694 4 | 1,33,098 |
| Total | | 3 | 7 | 915 | 16860 1 | 6,59,011 |

Towns

In the 1961 Census, eleven towns have been listed in the district, their location and population being as under -

| Name | | Location | | Population | | |
|-------|-----------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|
| | | Latitude | Longitude | Males | Females | Total |
| 1 | Churu | 28°-18' | 74°-58' | 21,486 | 20,241 | 41,727 |
| 2 | Ratannagar | 28°-13' | 74°-57' | 2,086 | 2,277 | 4,363 |
| 3 | Sardarshahr | 28°-26' | 74°-29' | 16,126 | 15,946 | 32,072 |
| 4 | Rajgarh | 28°-39' | 75°-23' | 9,532 | 8,604 | 18,136 |
| 5 | Taranagar(Reni) | 28°-40' | 75°-02' | 5,353 | 5,053 | 10,406 |
| 6 | Ratangarh | 28°-05' | 74°-37' | 13,400 | 13,231 | 26 631 |
| 7 | Rajaldesar | 28°-02' | 74°-28' | 5,330 | 5,650 | 10,980 |
| 8 | Sri Dungargarh | 28°-06' | 74° 01' | 8 049 | 8,274 | 16,323 |
| 9. | Bidasar | 27°-50' | 74°-19' | 4,608 | 4,781 | 9,389 |
| 10 | Chhapar | 27°-50' | 74°-26' | 3,550 | 3,705 | 7,255 |
| 11. | Sujargarh | 27°-42' | 74°-28' | 15,300 | 15,461 | 30,761 |
| Total | | - | - | 1,04,820 | 1,03,223 | 2,08,043 |

A detailed description of these towns will be found in the last chapter.

Topography

The district is near rectangular in shape, and its four angular co-ordinates appear to protrude, as seen from the map, in the contiguous areas of the following districts viz , north-west point in Bikaner and Ganganagar districts, north-east in Ganganagar district and Haryana

State, south-east in Haryana State and Jhunjhun district and the south-west in Nagaur and Bikaner districts. It has no natural divisions.

Desert

The district lies in the great Indian desert of Thar, and as such its major part is desert. It is covered with a thick mantle of sand, on account of which the structure of the region remains hidden from geological observations. The sand-dunes ranging in height from 6 metres to 30 metres (twenty feet to hundred feet), suggest the ribbed appearance of a sea-shore. The highest sand-dunes are found in the north-west part of the district. After the rains the desolate desert turns into a vast green pasture-land for a short time in the year. Thus the whole area is a semi-desert.

Plateaux and Plains

The general height of the district is roughly 400 metres above mean-sea-level and the terrain in general slopes from south to north.

Hills

There are no big hills in the district except some hillocks. These are merely spurs, but due to absence of mountains and hills, they are known here as 'hills'. They are called by the names of the villages situated near them.

From the eastern edge of the district up to the village named Bidasar (in Sujangarh Tahsil), there is a considerable number of hillocks occurring in clusters. They are situated near the villages of Gopalpura, Randhisar, Lodasar and Biramsar. All these lie in the Sujangarh and Ratangarh tahsils. In the remaining tahsils lies the vast area of sand.

(a) **GOPALPURA HILLS**—These hillocks lie within the area between Gopalpura on the east and Churu on the west. They occupy an area of about 65 sq. km. (or 25 sq miles). Except one which is about 1.6 km (a mile) long and about 121 metres (four hundred feet) high, all are small in size, varying from 201 metres to 1,190 metres (220 yards to 1,320 yards) in length. These are quartzite hills and are slightly reddish in colour due to incrustations of iron-oxide.

(b) **RANDHISAR HILLS**—These hillocks lie about 29 km or 18 miles in the north of Sujangarh. They are about 1,190 metres (1,320 yards) in length and 76 metres (250 feet) in height.

(c) LODASAR HILLS—Around the village, named Lodasar, there are a number of hillocks. Out of these only two lie in this district and the rest in Nagaur district

(d) BIRAMSAR HILLS—In Ratangarh tahsil, near the village named Biramsar, lie three hillocks. The rocks are greyish in colour and Chloriteschist. These are traversed by a number of quartz veins.

Rivers

There are no perennial rivers or streams in the district. However, there is one river named Katli or (Kantli) which rises in the hills near Khandela (in Jaipur district) and after a northerly course of some 96 kilometres through Shekhawati, generally loses itself in the sand just within the border of the district in Rajgarh tahsil. In years of good rainfall, however, it flows from 16 to 26 kilometres (according to the nature of the flood) in the south of Rajgarh tahsil. Some villages are benefited by it as it increases the fertility of their soil. It is ephemeral getting dry soon after the rains.

Lakes

There are no big lakes in the district. However, there are some depressions filled in by the rains during the monsoon, but they dry up as soon as the monsoon is over. Such depressions are called *tals*. There are two *tals* of this nature in the district—one near the railway station at Parihara and the other near Chhappar called Tal Chhappar. These *tals* are not of much economic importance.

Ground Water

As this area is an arid and semi-arid zone, the annual evaporation is markedly greater than annual precipitation. The rainfall is not only meagre but also erratic and undependable.

Essentially all the water that occurs here originates as rain. A part of the rainfall returns to the atmosphere by direct evaporation from the land surface, a part flows directly to the small streams and is carried away, and another part seeps into the soil. It percolates downward through cracks and crevices of the rocks until it reaches the water-table. The water-table generally is very low. Under the surface, water is available at a depth of 30 metres to 45 metres (100 to 150 feet), except in some places viz., Sujangarh and Taranagar tahsils. At and around Sujangarh, water is available even at a depth of 6 metres (20 feet) under the surface. At Taranagar it is found between 12 metres to 18 metres (40 to 60 feet) deep under the ground.

At most places, drinking or sweet water is scarce, and people have to traverse long distances to fetch it. At other places, water is saline and brackish. The people drink the brackish water after mixing *kund* water in it.

To solve the problem of shortage of sweet water, the State Government have envisaged a scheme (Panchayat Samiti-wise) for constructing new wells, repairing the dilapidated wells, implementing the regional piped schemes and improving the tank water supply, wherever possible. A Ground Water Survey has been conducted in the Rajgarh block of the district by the Rajasthan Ground Water Board under its Hydrogeological Reconnaissance Scheme. A zone, covering an area of 665 square kilometres in the block, has been recommended by the Survey for sinking tubewells. The tubewells are expected to yield about 25,000 litres per hour of tolerably good quality of water.

GEOLOGY

Geological formation and antiquity

It is now believed that this area was encroached by sea in the Eocene Age. Then began the process of sedimentation of sand-stones. On the evidence of the occurrence of sedimentary rocks of the same age in the Punjab, it is believed that they were deposited in the same sea as the present ones. The thickness of white and buff limestones and shales, alongwith the characteristic fossils pertaining to the general Nummulites and Assilina, belong to the Laki division and represents the Eocene. The Jurassic rock developed here consists of Abur beds, Parihar sandstones, Badasar beds and Jaisalmer limestones (representing the Jurassic periods).

A major portion of the area of the district, being thickly covered with sand, remains hidden from geological observations. But at some places rock exposures have been found both in eastern and western portions. On the eastern side, the rocks extend from the eastern edge of the district up to the village, Bidasar, in Sujangarh tahsil. In this area, there are a number of small hills or hillocks occurring as clusters and situated in four widely separated patches near the villages named Gopalpura, Randhisar, Lodasar and Biramsar. The Gopalpura hills are quartzite ones and the quartzite is generally schistose. They are slightly reddish in colour. The Randhisar hills contain quartziterous rocks of varying colours. The Lodasar hills also bear quartzite formation. The Biramsar hillocks, in Ratangarh tahsil, possess rocks which are chloriteschist and grey in colour.

It is seen that the hills of the district contain quartzites, except at Biramsar, consisting of chloriteschist. No tree or vegetation is found to grow on them. Economically the area is not of much importance except at Biramsar and Dariba in Ratangarh and Sujangarh tahsils respectively. The chloriteschists have been mineralized by copper at Biramsar and Dariba. Both the chloriteschists and quartzites belong to be the rock of the same age and are known as Aravalli system of the Indian Geology. Quartzites are highly metamorphic products of sand and schists of claybeds deposited in a primeval sea.

The sand-stone is another important rock of this area and is found in some wells at Bidasar village where it is actually quarried about 1.6 km (1 mile) west where it crops up. This rock is younger than the Aravallis being of Vindhyan age and seems to have been deposited over the quartzite and schists.

The other portions of the district are fully covered with sand and no information regarding the nature of rocks below, is available.

MINERAL WEALTH—The district is not rich in minerals but they are found at a few places. The various mineral deposits are briefly described below

Copper

Old workings of copper have been found at Dariba, a village in Sujangarh tahsil. It is said that certain quantity of copper ores were mined and locally smelted, but the working of this mineral is reported to have been discontinued due to its having proved uneconomic. The quantity of copper content recovered was found to be poor. All efforts to investigate the economic utility of this deposit have failed on account of heavy in-rush of water at a certain depth.

Occurrence of copper has also been noticed at Biramsar in Ratangarh tahsil. There are a few old pits and signs of working of quarries on a very small scale, not exceeding beyond the prospecting stage. Investigation and schemes for development of the deposits at Dariba and Biramsar are under consideration of the Government.

Salt Petre

Salt petre or potassium nitrate is found as an efflorescence on the soil in some places in Rajgarh tahsil. It contains not only salt petre but is associated with sodium chloride, sodium sulphate, etc.

Sand-Stone

Sand-stone occurs at Bidasar in Sujangarh tahsil. It is actually quarried at a place about 1.6 km or one mile to the west of the

village of Bidasar where it is found about 3 metres (10 feet) below the surface. The thickness of the bed is more than 10 metres (32 feet). Due to lack of transportation facilities this rock is generally utilised locally for constructional purposes.

Magnesium Lime-stone

Magnesium lime-stone is found in Sujargarh, Dungargarh, Rajgarh and Churu tahsils. But these deposits are very small in size and situated in the interior and hence they are not of much economic importance. They are locally used on payment of royalty to the Government.

Gypsum

The occurrence of gypsum in small patches at various places in Taranagar tahsil has been noticed and the areas are under investigation.

FLORA

Forests

As mentioned above, the district is a part of the Indian desert. The vegetal cover in the area is almost negligible due to extremes of temperature, during winters and summers, and scanty rainfall. Stabilised sand-dunes inside 'Grass Reserves' or inside areas, free from biotic interference, contain very poor and open forests. With moderately good rains, at times, the district becomes rich in grass and fodder.

OVERWOOD—Important trees found in the district are *Acacia nilotica* (Kikar), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Balanites roxburghii* (Hingota), *Capparis aphylla* (Ker), *Dalbergia Sissoo* (Shisham), *Prosopis spicigera* (Khejra), *Salvadora Oleoides* (Jal-Pilu), *Salvadora persica* (Jal-khara), *Tecomela undulata* (Rohira), and *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Ber).

The *khejra* tree (*Prosopis spicigera*) is the most common in the overwood of the district. Its leaves, pods etc. are eaten by cattle, and its dried beans are used as vegetables. The *Rohira* (*Tecoma undulata*) tree furnishes good timber but it is not very common. The *Shisham* (*Dalbergia sissoo*) very good for furniture, is also scarce in this area.

There is no distinct 'Underwood' in the district. But the 'undergrowth' consists mainly of bushes and other miscellaneous woods like, *Acrua tomentosa* (Bui), *Argemone mexicana* (Unt Kartaha), *Calligonum polygonoides* (Phog), *Capparis aphylla* (Kair), *Calotropis procera*

(Ak), *Crotalaria burhia* (Sema), *Euphorbia royleana* (Thor), *Laptadema Spartium* (Khump), *Lycium europoeum* (Morah), and *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Ber).

The *ak* (*Calotropis procera*) bushes flourish well in the area, so much so, that some of these have acquired the height of trees. Their leaves are eaten by goats and out of its pods a fibrous substance comes out. The *ak* flowers are believed to contain medicinal properties.

The *Phog* (*Calligonum polygonoides*) bushes, being common all over the area of the district, are used as supporters of the sides of wells. Its buds are eaten in the villages by mixing them with buttermilk, and its leaves serve as fodder for camels.

GRASSES—Several types of grasses are found in this area, viz., *Cenchrus catharticus* (Bhurat), *Lasiurus seindicus* (Sewan), *Cymbopogon jwarancusa* (Bura), *Aristida mutica* (Lampra), *Saccharum griffithii* (Kucha), *Panicum turgidum* (Murat)

Bhurat has prickly husks and grows in abundance during the rainy season. It is used as fodder for cattle. Besides, *Bura* and *Murath* are also used as fodder for cattle. *Bagero* and *Sata* are eaten by camels. *Daph*, a hardy grass with little sap, has deep strong roots and grows around the thorny fences of houses in the villages.

There is no rare type of flora in the district.

Set-up of the Forest Department

The forest areas of Churu, which are only grass reserves, are under the Range Forest Officer, Churu. Previously, these areas were *Gaushala* Preserves and were transferred to the Forest Department during the year 1961. Later on some more areas were transferred to this department. These were 'Grass Land Improvement Areas' which were under the control of Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. One 'Shooting Reserve' of the erstwhile ruler of Bikaner at Talchhappar was transferred to the department which has been declared by the government as sanctuary for Black Buck, (locally called *Kala Hiran*) and is being looked after by one Assistant Forester and two Forest Guards. At present, the department has a few grass reserves at Churu, Ratannagar and Ratangarh. The areas are being looked after by Forest Ranger, headquartered at Churu. One Forester, one Assistant Forester, seven Forest Guards and two Cattle Guards assist the ranger in his duties.

The present policy of the department is to preserve the 'grass reserves' to cater to the local demand. In order to meet the acute

shortage of fodder the department allows free grazing for the local cattle population in the grass reserves, and, therefore, derives hardly any revenue from the forest areas.

Besides this, the department has taken steps to develop the game sanctuary at Talchhapar. Ditchfencing work has been taken up around the area with the sole aim of preserving the bushes, and reducing the possibilities of poaching by jeep or any other vehicle, and of protecting against illicit grazing.

The department has undertaken the scheme of sand-dune fixation, but the results have not been very encouraging due to unfavourable climatic conditions. Non-availability of adequate water is the main obstacle in the implementation of the afforestation schemes.

Fauna

Fox (*Vulpes leucopus*), Blue Bull, Common Hare (*Lepus Ruficaudatus*), Jackal (*Canis Aureus*), Porcupine (*Hystrix Cristata indica*), Bats (*Megaldermalyra* and *Rhinopoma hardwickii*) and Bush rats (*Zerbil*) etc are found here. The common birds found here are Bulbul (*Molpaotescafer*), Owl (*Bubobubo*), Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Pigeon (*Columba Libia*), Sand Grouse (*Pterocles Exustus*), Grey Partridge (*Francolinus Pondicerianus*), Godavan or gurahan (Great Indian Bustard)

At Talchhapar, as mentioned above, is a game sanctuary, established with a view to preserving rare species of antelope called black buck (*Kala Hiran*) whose number is about three hundred to four hundred. At present 829.61 hectares (2,050 acres) of land have been set apart for this game sanctuary, with facilities of drinking water and feed for the animals. The department has posted one Assistant Forester and two Forest Guards to prevent poaching. Near this area stands a forest rest house.

Reptiles

Snakes are very common in the area. Various kinds of snakes locally called *Bandi*, *Kalindar*, *Dami*, *Padam*, *Sarpa*, *Chital*, etc are found. In summer they come out on the sand-dunes during the nights.

THE CLIMATE

The district has a dry desert climate, with large variations in temperature, and scanty rainfall. The winter from November to March is followed by the summer from April to June. The period from July to mid-September is the south-west monsoon season.

Mid September to October is the period of transition from monsoon to the cold season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for seven stations for sixty years. Tables 1 and 2 appended give the details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole. The average annual rainfall in the district is 325.5 mm. The rainfall, in general, increases from the north-west towards the south-east and varies from 261.2 mm at Dungargarh to 372.3 mm at Sujargarh. About 75 per cent of the annual rainfall is received during the south-west monsoon period. July is the rainiest month. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is large. In the forty-five year period from 1906 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall in the district, occurred in 1917, and was 285 per cent of the normal. The rainfall in the very next year, was 24 per cent of the normal, the lowest in the same period. During the period of forty-five years, the rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in fourteen years. Three consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once, and two consecutive years thrice, during this period in the district. At individual stations, two and three consecutive years of poor rainfall, i.e. less than 80 per cent of the normal, are quite common. Even four, five and seven consecutive years of such low rainfall have been recorded once each at Taranagar, Rajgarh and Sardarshahr respectively. It will be seen from Table 2 that the rainfall in the district was between 200 and 500 mm in 36 years out of forty-five.

On an average there are 19 rainy days (i.e. days with rain of 2.5 mm or more) in a year. This number varies from 17 at Dungargarh to 22 at Rajgarh. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 226.1 mm at Sardarshahr on July 2, 1960.

Temperature

The only meteorological observatory in the district is at Churu and the records for this station are available for ten years only. The temperature and other meteorological records at this station may be taken as representative of the climatic conditions in the district in general. Temperature rises rapidly after March. June is the hottest month, with the mean daily maximum temperature at 41.3°C and the mean daily minimum at 29.0°C. In summer months the weather is intensely hot with scorching dust-laden wind and the sun

temperature sometimes rises up to over 45°C . With the advance of the south-west monsoon early in July, temperature decreases a little. But the oppressiveness of the weather continues, due to the increased humidity. After the middle of September when the monsoon withdraws, the temperature begins to fall gradually and after about the middle of November rapidly. The diurnal range of temperature is very large, particularly in the winter months. The drop in temperature after nightfall is rather sudden. January is the coldest month with the mean daily minimum temperature at 4.8°C and the mean daily maximum at 22.1°C . During the winter season cold waves, in association with passing western disturbances, affect the district and the minimum temperatures sometimes drop to a few degrees below the freezing point of water, and frosts occur.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Churu was 47.2°C on May 30, 1956 and the lowest minimum temperature was minus 4.4°C on January 26, 1964.

Humidity

Except during the brief south-west monsoon period when the relative humidities are above 60 per cent, the air is generally dry. Even during the rainy period, the air is drier in between the rains. The summer is the driest period of the year when the relative humidities, particularly in the afternoons, are below 30 per cent.

Cloudiness

Even during the monsoon period, the skies are only moderately clouded on many days and overcast or heavily clouded skies are seen only on a few days. For the rest of the year, skies are lightly clouded or clear except during the winter season, when, in association with passing western disturbances, cloudy skies appear for short spells of a day or two.

Winds

Winds are generally light, with some strengthening force, during the later part of the summer season and monsoon months. In the period from May to October winds blow mainly from the direction between south-west and north-west. During the winter months, November to March, the winds are generally light and variable in direction in the mornings, the winds from directions between east and south being more common, in the afternoons they increase in strength.

slightly and are mainly from the direction between west and north. In April, the morning winds are mostly from the direction between east and south-west while in the afternoons, they are predominantly from the direction between south-west and north-west

Special weather phenomena

Some of the depressions which originate in the Bay of Bengal in the south-west monsoon season, and move across the central parts of the country, reach the district during their last stages of activity and cause widespread rain before dissipating. An occasional post-monsoon storm or depression also occurs in the district. Dust-storms and thunder-storms occur in the hot season. Thunder-storms take place in the south-west monsoon season also. In the wake of western disturbances occasional fog occurs in the cold season.

Thunder-storms, Hails and Fog

The district experiences very few thunder-storms. It has only about ten thundery days in the year, most of which occur in the period from May to September. But dust-storms are very frequent in this area, and it has eighteen days of dust-storms in the year. Maximum number of dust-storms occur in June but more or less continue up to September. The hailstorm, on an average of one in about three years, occurs generally in January, March and May and to a lesser extent in February. Fogs are reported mostly in the month of January.

Earthquakes

The district is situated in a more or less stable area where no earthquake of any significance has occurred in the past. It has, however, experienced fringe effects of the great earthquakes originating in the seismically active zones of Himalayas, Suleman mountains and the Rann of Kutch. According to the records available, the following earthquakes were felt in Churu district in the past

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Place of origin</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1819, June 16 | Rann of Kutch |
| 1905, April 4 | Kangra |
| 1931, August 27 | Baluchistan |
| 1935, May 30 | Baluchistan |

Tables 3, 4 and 5 appended give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and frequency of special weather phenomena respectively for Churu.



TAB
Normals and extremes

| Station | No of years of data | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Churu | 45 a | 12.5 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 5.1 | 10.2 | 42.2 | 115.3 | 106.9 | 49.8 |
| | b | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 2.8 |
| Ratangarh | 45 a | 7.9 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 3.8 | 10.9 | 36.1 | 108.5 | 110.0 | 54.6 |
| | b | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 2.7 |
| Sujangarh | 45 | 7.1 | 5.6 | 7.4 | 4.3 | 15.2 | 36.8 | 120.9 | 109.7 | 51.3 |
| | b | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 2.6 |
| Sardarshahr | 45 a | 5.8 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 5.8 | 29.7 | 83.6 | 83.6 | 49.8 |
| | b | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 2.2 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 2.4 |
| Rajgarh | 45 a | 12.5 | 8.9 | 6.1 | 3.3 | 10.9 | 37.6 | 103.6 | 90.2 | 56.6 |
| | b | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 5.8 | 5.0 | 3.0 |
| Taranagar | 45 a | 8.6 | 6.3 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 8.4 | 28.5 | 95.5 | 85.9 | 50.8 |
| | b | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 2.4 |
| Sri Dungar- garh | 45 a | 5.8 | 7.4 | 3.1 | 3.8 | 8.1 | 33.0 | 79.5 | 80.3 | 33.0 |
| | b | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 1.9 |
| Churu(Distt) | a | 8.6 | 6.6 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 9.9 | 34.8 | 101.0 | 95.2 | 49.4 |
| | b | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 2.5 |

(a) Normal rainfall in mm

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more)

LE I

of Rainfall

| Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual | Highest annual rainfall as % of normal and year** | Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and year** | Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* | | |
|------------|------------|------------|---------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|----|
| | | | | | | Amount (mm) | Date | |
| 6.3 0.4 | 1.0 0.1 | 5.6 0.5 | 367.6 20.7 | 213 (1917) | 21 (1918) | 146.1 | 1942 Sep | 5 |
| 5.8 0.4 | 1.5 0.1 | 4.1 0.5 | 353.9 20.5 | 218 (1917) | 10 (1918) | 170.2 | 1929 July | 22 |
| 7.4 0.3 | 1.3 0.1 | 5.3 0.3 | 372.3 20.7 | 351 (1917) | 19 (1938) | 209.5 | 1957 July | 23 |
| 4.1 0.2 | 1.0 0.1 | 3.1 0.3 | 280.5 17.7 | 389 (1917) | 26 (1938) | 226.1 | 1960 July | 2 |
| 6.1 0.4 | 2.0 0.2 | 4.6 0.5 | 342.4 21.6 | 257 (1917) | 22 (1918) | 160.0 | 1908 July | 14 |
| 3.3 0.3 | 1.0 0.2 | 3.1 0.3 | 301.8 18.5 | 298 (1917) | 07 (1918) | 152.4 | 1944 July | 30 |
| 3.6 0.3 | 0.5 0.1 | 3.1 0.4 | 261.2 16.7 | 290 (1917) | 30 (1921) | 138.4 | 1942 Sep. | 6 |
| 5.2 0.3 | 1.2 0.1 | 4.1 0.4 | 325.5 19.4 | 285 (1917) | 24 (1918) | — | — | |

* Based on all available data upto 1965.

** Years given in Brackets

TABLE 2
Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District
(Data 1906-50)*

| Range in mm | No of years |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1-100 | 1 |
| 101-200 | 5 |
| 201-300 | 13 |
| 301-400 | 18 |
| 401-500 | 5 |
| 501-600 | 2 |
| 601-700 | 0 |
| 701-800 | 0 |
| 801-900 | 0 |
| 901-1000 | 1 |

*Data available for 45 years only

TABLE 3
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity
CHURU

| Month | Mean Daily Maximum Temperature | | Mean Daily Minimum Temperature | | Highest Maximum ever recorded | | Lowest Minimum ever recorded | | Relative Humidity in % | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------|------------------------|--|
| | °C | °C | °C | Date | °C | Date | 0830 | 1730* | | |
| January | 22.1 | 4.8 | 29.4 | 1965 Jan 16 | -4.4 | 1964 Jan 26 | 72 | 39 | | |
| February | 25.7 | 7.7 | 33.8 | 1960 Feb 27 | -1.1 | 1964 Feb 2 | 63 | 34 | | |
| March | 30.6 | 14.2 | 39.0 | 1959 Mar 25 | 6.2 | 1950 Mar. 23 | 55 | 31 | | |
| April | 36.8 | 19.9 | 45.9 | 1958 Apr 25 | 10.3 | 1965 Apr 2 | 44 | 24 | | |
| May | 40.7 | 24.6 | 47.2 | 1956 May 30 | 15.6 | 1960 May 8 | 40 | 21 | | |
| June | 41.3 | 29.9 | 45.7 | 1962 June 8 | 21.1 | 1957 June 3 | 50 | 29 | | |
| July | 37.2 | 27.3 | 44.8 | 1963 July 6 | 22.4 | 1962 July 20 | 72 | 54 | | |
| August | 35.4 | 26.1 | 42.1 | 1965 Aug 21 | 21.5 | 1965 Aug 29 | 78 | 59 | | |
| September | 35.2 | 23.9 | 39.4 | 1960 Sept 14 | 16.9 | 1962 Sept 30 | 72 | 50 | | |
| October | 34.0 | 17.7 | 39.9 | 1965 Oct 6 | 8.1 | 1964 Oct 29 | 60 | 35 | | |
| November | 29.0 | 10.3 | 35.3 | 1965 Nov 2 | 1.4 | 1962 Nov 30 | 59 | 34 | | |
| December | 23.8 | 5.6 | 32.8 | 1963 Dec 12 | -2.1 | 1964 Dec 13 | 68 | 39 | | |
| Annual | 32.6 | 17.6 | - | - | - | - | 61 | 37 | | |

*Hours I S T

TABLE 4
Mean Wind Speed in km/hr.
CHURU

| Jan | Feb | Mar. | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept. | Oct | Nov. | Dec. | Annual |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|
| 4.9 | 6.0 | 7.6 | 9.0 | 10.7 | 16.4 | 13.0 | 10.8 | 9.0 | 6.0 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 8.5 |

TABLE 5
Special Weather Phenomena
CHURU

| Mean No of days with | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | An- nual |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Thunder | 0.4 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 5.7 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 3.2 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 35.5 |
| Hail | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Dust- storm | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 11.9 |
| Squall | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Fog | 2.3 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 6.2 |

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Pre-History

The district of Churu lies in the Great Indian Desert, known as Thar Desert. Geologists believe that this desert is of a later origin and in very ancient times (geologically in the Jurassic, Cretaceous and Eocene periods) a sea existed and extended right up to this area, but receded gradually due to some geological phenomena. This sea should have extended through and to some distance north of the Rann of Cutch into the Indus, Saraswati and Luni valleys in Sind and Rajasthan¹. But none can safely assert the exact time when this land, beneath the extended area of the sea, was uplifted into dry land. Some geologists believe that it dried up some time in the Upper Tertiary. Later on, the desert conditions were accentuated and gradually the marshy land began to sprout some vegetation rendering habitation possible. No one knows when human beings began to roam in this part to render it into a dwelling-place. It must have remained a no-man's land for centuries. We find a reference in *Ramayan* to one '*Marukantara*' which was formed out of the sea by an arrow of Lord Rama. The same *Marukantara* has been identified as the Desert of Rajasthan².

Proto-History

We are told that in the ancient times two Vedic rivers—Saraswati and Drishadvati—flowed in the contiguous areas of the district i.e., in Ganganagar, which testifies to the presence of the Aryans in this part of Rajasthan.

Recent archaeological excavations, carried out in the adjoining district of Ganganagar at Rangmahal, Kalibanga, Badopal, Nohar, etc. indicate that the Indus Valley Civilization extended up to this area. The district of Churu, being a contiguous area to these sites of excavations, might have been included in the area of the Indus Valley Civilization, but there is no evidence to support this conjecture.

- 1 Bulletin of the National Institute of Sciences of India, September 1952, pp. 19-29.
- 2 Ojha, G. H., in his *History of Rajputana*, Vol. I (1927), p. 83, quotes *Valmiki Ramayan*, *Yudhishtha Kanda*, *Sarga 22*, *Shlokas 32 & 33*.

No pre-historic site has so far been unearthed in the district of Churu. Hence no useful information is available for reconstructing the history of the ancient times. However, there are some references to this part in the name of *Jangaladesha* in the *Mahabharata*. This expression was often used in the compound terms *Madreya-Jangala* and *Kuru-Jangala*. It seems that there was a territory known as *Jangala* adjacent to the *Kurus* and *Madreyas*. The part of it adjacent to the *Kurus* was called *Kuru-Jangala* and the one adjacent to *Madreya* was designated as *Madreya-Jangala*. Ojha locates the *Jangaladesha* towards the south of the territories occupied by *Madreya* and *Kurus*¹ in the Punjab. As per the Sanskrit work, *Sabda-Kalpadruma*, *Jangaladesha* is that part of the land, wherein there is scarcity of water and grass, where high winds blow and heat is intense and which abounds in grain production after rains².

The description applies to this area and the Bikaner and Ganganagar districts. Some scholars hold the view that parts of the former Bikaner and Jaipur States and the northern portion of the Marwar territory comprised the *Jangaladesha*.³ Our theory receives support from the phrase "*Jangaladhar Badshahi*" which was an epithet of the rulers of Bikaner. It appeared on their coat of arms.

According to local tradition, Dronpur (a village near the present Sujangarh) is supposed to have been founded by Dronacharya, the celebrated teacher of the Pandawas. The legend shows the great antiquity of the place and the contiguous area. Similarly in the Bikaner district, a tank at Kolayat is associated with the memory of the great saint, Kapil Muni.

Panini, the Sanskrit grammarian (4th century B.C.) mentions the *Yaudheyas* as the inhabitants of the southern Punjab, occupying a large territory. They were great warriors and enjoyed a republican form of government. Panini includes them in the category of *Ayudhjiwins* (warrior class). Their hold in Rajasthan has been proved by the discovery of an inscription at Bijaynagar (in Bharatpur district). There are some people still living in the northern parts of

1 Ojha, G H, *History of Rajputana*, Vol V, Part I (1939), pp 1-2.

2 *ibid*, pp 1-2

3 R B Singh *The History of the Chahamanas* (1964) p 76. Dr Dashratha Sharma, in his *Early Chauhan Dynasties* (1958), believes that *Jangaladesha* and *Sapadalaksa* were probably co-terminus, pp 11, 23 and the title of his Chapter III

the district (and in its adjacent and contiguous district—Ganganagar), known as *Jokiyas*, which is a corrupted form of the *Yaudheyas*. The coins of the *Yaudheyas* (belonging to third and fourth centuries A.D.) have the legend '*Yaudheya-ganasya-jayah*' (victory be to the republic of the *Yaudheyas*), and also the words *dvi* and *tri* indicating sections of the *Yaudheya* tribe, which was probably divided into two or three sections, viz., *Langvira* (*Lakvira*), *Madhovira* (*Madhera*) and *Adamvira* (*Admera*),¹ still inhabiting some parts of the district and the contiguous district of Ganganagar. Later on, in the medieval period, some of them embraced Islam.

The Mauryas

The Mauryas had built a vast empire including the territory of present Rajasthan. The empire of Asoka the Great, included the whole of Rajasthan which is evidenced by the Minor Rock Edict, inscribed in the vicinity of Bairat in the Jaipur district².

The Greeks

After Alexander, the Greeks tried to establish themselves in Sind and the North-West Provinces. On the basis of Patanjali (*Mahabhashya*) it is said that the *Yavanas* (Greeks) invaded *Madhya-Mika* (modern Nagari near Chittor fort) and *Saketa* (Ayodhya) and it is believed that they overran parts of Rajasthan before reaching Nagari. They may have used the dry river beds as routes for their march.

The Western Kshatrapas and the Kushanas

The Kshatrapas (Western Kshatrapas) ruled over some portions of the south-west Rajasthan. It is evident from the inscription of Rudradama (at Junagarh, 150 A.D.) in which he claims to have defeated the *Yaudheyas* to whom he refers as 'Heroes of the republican tribes inhabiting the region, contiguous to that the *Yaudheyas*'.

Guptas

The Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta (C. 335-385 A.D.) indicates that this region formed a part of Gupta Empire. The *Yaudheyas* are mentioned therein as vassals of the Guptas.

1 *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol II, pp 116-117

2 *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol II, (Bombay, 1960), p 77. Asoka had installed 'Rock Edicts' in the centres of population in different boundary provinces and 'Minor Rock Edicts' in the interior of the country and 'Pillar Edicts' to mark stages in the pilgrims' progress towards the holy places of Buddhism.

probably they remained under the Guptas till middle of the fifth century. It is probable that Guptas ruled over this area for over two centuries (C. 200-450 A.D.) Some pottery excavated in the Ganganagar district can be assigned to this period¹

Then the inroads of Hunas began. Skandgupta (455-470 A.D.) the Gupta emperor, however, succeeded in keeping the empire intact. But his successors could not repulse the Hunas' attacks. Under the leadership of Toramana, the Hunas swept over the whole of north-western India including Gujarat, Kathiawad, Rajputana and Malwa in 499 A.D.²

Harshavardhan

During the times of Harshavardhan (606-670 A.D.) "the north-western frontiers of Thaneshwar were limited by the Hun territories in the Punjab, and in the north it probably extended up to the hills. In the east, it was co-terminus with the Maukharī Kingdom of Kanauj, and on the west and south, it probably did not go much beyond the Punjab and the Rajputana desert"³ It can be assumed that Harsha had established his supremacy over the region of Rajasthan including the district of Churu.

Gurjars

The Gurjars succeeded the Hunas. They first settled in the Punjab, then moved to the south into Rajasthan and after some time, they settled in Marwar by founding the Pratihār dynasty.⁴ They remained settled for a long time in and around Didwana (now in Nagaur district) situated on the outskirts of the Churu district. It may be supposed that the Pratiharas ruled over the southern parts of this district which adjoins the Nagaur district.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Chahamanas (Chaubans)

Meantime another Rajput clan, known as Chahamanas, rose to power in the eighth century. They established their capital at

- 1 Goetz, Herman *The Art and Architecture of Bikaner State* (Oxford, 1950), p. 28
- 2 Ojha, G.H., *op cit*, Vol I, pp. 128-129.
- 3 Tripathi, R.S., *History of Kanauj* (1959), p. 80
- 4 Dr. Bhandarkar believes the Pratiharas to be the Gurjars while G. H. Ojha holds that they were different from the Pratiharas (vide, *op cit*, vol I, pp. 147-159)

Sakambhari (Sambhar). From Sambhar they moved to Ajmer and then Delhi which became their second capital. The Chauhan empire grew in size and strength and reached the apex of its glory during the reign of Prithvi Raj III (C. 1178-92 A D). His sway extended over the whole of Rajasthan and territory of Churu must have been included in his empire.¹

The Chauhans of Dadrewa

The Chahamanas had their feudatories. Their existence is testified by inscriptions² and *devalis* (cenotaphs) found in the area. An inscription of v.s. 1270 (1213 A D) gives the name of one Mandleshwar named Rana Jayatsinha, the son of Gopal, who had constructed a well at Dadrewa. This inscription indicates that a branch of the Chauhans ruled in this area (at and around Dadrewa, five kilometres or three miles from Rajgarh, a tahsil in Churu district). It is also known that they used *Rana* or *Ranak*³ as their epithet. *Kayam Khan Raso*, a literary work, informs us that Guga, the eldest son of Jevara, ruled here for some time. The genealogy of the dynasty constructed on the basis of the *Raso* shows that Guga was succeeded by Naniga, who, perhaps, had died childless. Hence the power came in the hands of Udairaja, a son of Guga's brother, Vairasi. His successors according to the *Raso* were Jasaraja, Keshoraja, Vijayraja, Padamsi, Prithviraja, Lalchanda, Gopal, Jaitsi or Jaitasiha (whose inscription of v.s. 1270 or 1213 A D has been discovered at Dadrewa), Punapala, Rupa, Ravana, Tihunapala and Moteraja. The last ruler's son, Karan Chand, was converted to Islam by Firuz Shah (1351-1388 A D) and named as Kayam Khan, whose life has been described in the *Kayamkhan Raso*⁴.

- 1 R B Singh *The History of the Chahamanas* (1964), pp. 181-82, "in his empire were included the modern Ambala division of the Punjab, Patiala, Nabha, Faridkot and Simla states and North-Eastern portion of the Bhawalpur state, Jaipur, Alwar, Bikaner, Ajmer and Merwara, most of Jodhpur, portions of Mewar and Malwa, Bundi, Kota, Tonk, Karauli, Jhalawar and Dholpur states in Rajasthan, Bharatpur and Gwalior states, portions of Jhansi and Agra divisions, the whole of Meerut division alongwith Tehri and Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh"
- 2 Ojha, G H, *op. cit.*, Vol II, part I pp. 63-64. Dasharatha Sharma *Early Chauhan Dynasties* (1959), pp. 327-328.
- 3 Ojha, G H, *loc. cit.*, pp. 64, Dasharath Sharma, *loc. cit.*, p. 327, and Muhnot Nainsi's Khyat refer to this title.
- 4 Sharma, Dasharatha, *ibid.*, pp. 327-28.

Another branch of the Chauhans, called Mohils¹, had established themselves here with their headquarters at Chhapar and Dronpur. The south-eastern and the south-western parts of the district were under them and named as *Mohulavati*². They had wrested the power from the Parmaras and Sañkhlas (branch of Pratiharas). Their territory, probably, comprised the south-eastern part of the Bikaner State, the Ladnu *paragana* of Marwar³. No systematic and detailed information is, however, available. At Charlu (22 km from Chhapar), some *devalis* (cenotaphs) have been found which furnish evidence that they ruled during the twelfth century. G.H. Ojha locates their capital at Charlu⁴. In one of the inscriptions of the *devalis*, it is stated that a certain Ahada and Ambavaka (v s 1241 or 1184 A D) had taken part in a battle at Nagpur (or Nagaur)⁵, but against whom these Chauhans (Mohils) fought is not known. They might, probably, be the foreign Mussalmans who "made several incursions in Sapadalaksha Kingdom"⁶ of the Chauhans during the reign of Prathviraj III (1178-92 A D).

The Parmaras ruled at and around Sujangarh and they were succeeded by the Mohils (Chauhans) but the date of their taking over is not known. An inscription of *devali* of v s. 1241 (or 1184 A.D) indicates that Sardarshahr and the area around it formed part of the Chauhans' kingdom.

The northern portions of the district, i. e. the area now covered by Taranagar and Rajgarh tahsi's, was under the rule of Chayals, another dynasty of Chauhans, and seems to have remained under their sway upto the end of sixteenth century. This whole portion (north and north-east of the district) was probably known as Chayalwara⁷ (the land of the Chayals).

The Muslims had established themselves at Delhi in 1206 A.D. They tried to extend their territories at the cost of the Rajput States which were fighting against each other. The Muslims invaded the parts of Rajasthan now forming the territories of the Ch...

1. Ojha, G H, *op cit*, Vol V, Part I, pp 59-60

2. *ibid*, pp 70-71.

3. *ibid*, p. 71.

4. *ibid*, p 61

5. *ibid*, p 61

6. *Rajasthan District Gazetteer*, Ajmer (1956), pp. 47-48.

7. Ojha, G H, *op cit*, pp 114-120

Sikar, Jhunjhunun, and Nagaur districts, conquered small territories and established themselves in the areas now grouped in the Nagaur district. Then some enterprising Muslim converts tried to establish themselves permanently in this area of Rajasthan. One Kayam Khan (mentioned above), struggled hard to establish himself permanently in the adjacent areas of the Churu district now grouped in Jhunjhunun district. He and his successors entered into a long struggle against the Rajputs ruling over the area. They probably fought a number of battles against the Chauhans, Mohils and Chayals, who inhabited the area of the district of Churu.

In the meantime a strong principality had been carved out by the Rathors in the south-western Rajasthan, with their capital at Jodhpur. Rao Jodha, the founder of Jodhpur fought many battles against the local small chieftains and extended his dominion upto the region now forming the district of Nagaur. One of his sons, Rao Bika, set out with a strong force of selected persons, on an enterprise to found a principality of his own in the north and north-east portions of his father's kingdom. He left Jodhpur in 1465 A. D. and conquered the territory now forming the Bikaner district. He laid foundation of the Bikaner fort in 1488 A. D. and extended his authority on the eastern side of his occupied land. Then he succeeded in subduing several Jat tribes — Godaras, Pandus, Sarans and Maderanas.

In the southern parts of the present district, the Mohils had been subdued by Rao Jodha of Jodhpur who placed them under his son Bida, brother of Rao Bika. But the Mohils had not been completely subjugated by that time and Barsal,¹ one of their leaders, enlisted the military help of Sarang Khan, the Governor of Hissar. Bida could not contend successfully against the combined forces of the Mohils and the Governor and sought help from his brother, Rao Bika. In course of time, with Bika's assistance 8,000 strong men marched against Sarang Khan who retired hastily to his headquarters apprehending defeat at the hands of Kandhal, the uncle of Rao Bika. Thus the Mohil territory was restored to Bida and he could now hold it as a feudatory of the Bikaner Chief, Rao Bika. Smarting under his defeat, Sarang Khan, collected a large force and attacked the Rathors unawares, to avenge his defeat. Kandhal, thus taken by surprise, fought bravely but was killed in action. On hearing the sad news Rao Bika took a vow to

1. Ojha, G. H. *History of Rajputana*, Vol. V, Part II, (1940), p. 548

eat only after he had avenged his death. With the timely military help from his father, Rao Jodha, Bika encountered Sarang Khan at the village of Kans and killed him, putting his men to flight. The territory was restored to Bida whose descendants called Bidawats held it for several generations as feudatories of Bikaner. Since then till the merger of the State of Bikaner into Rajasthan, in 1949, the history of the district is the history of the Bikaner State. The region was in continuous possession of the descendants and successors of Bika (see Appendix I).

Bika extended his territory to the north-east of this district by encroaching on the land of Rīdmal, the Thakur of Khandela, whose town was given to plunder. Later on, Bika advanced towards Rewari (now in Haryana State) and conquered some of its areas. The Khandela Thakur sought the assistance of the Sultan of Delhi and advanced against Bika with the imperial troops under Nawab Hindal. Bika fought the joint army and defeated and slew his enemies and ruled over this territory without any interruption from the neighbouring chiefs, till his death in 1504.

The third ruler, Lunkaran (1505-26 A. D.) had to face the rebellion of the Bhumias, who were deprived of their land by Rao Bika. They mustered at the village named Dadrewa in Rajgarh tahsil, but they had to surrender after a long siege of seven months.¹

Lunkaran, in order to take advantage of the feud between the two Kayamkhanis²—Daulat Khan (the ruler of Fatehpur) and Ranghan—invaded Fatehpur on April 22, 1512 and after defeating them annexed 120 of their villages³. Later on, he attacked *Chayalwara* (consisting of 440 villages situated in the area adjacent to Hissar and Sirsa) and defeated the Chayal Rajputs and annexed a large part of their territory to his kingdom. The other event of importance during his rule was the war against Jait Singh (v.s. 1553-1585 or 1494-1528 A.D.), Rawal of Jaisalmer in which the Rawal⁴ was captured and escorted to his capital which was then plundered. Two months later, the Rawal was released and peace was concluded between the parties. The Rawal's two daughters were betrothed to Lunkaran's

1 Ojha, G. H., *op cit*, pp. 112-113

2 The descendants of Kayam Khan were called Kayamkhanis

3 *ibid*, p. 113.

4 *ibid*, p. 116. But the other *khayats* mention this event during the reign of Rawal Devī Dayal which according to Ojha is not correct, see Ojha *op cit*, p. 116, f n 1.

two sons Rawal Jait Singh was, however, determined to avenge this insult. In collusion with the Nawab of Narnaul he attacked Lunkaran near Doshi in v s 1583 (1526 A D) and killed him and his three sons¹. This defeat of the Bikaner forces was attributed to the desertion of the important followers of Lunkaran. Lunkaran's son, Jait Singh (1526-41 A D) exported some of these treacherous defectors. When Kamran, son of Babur, invaded Bikaner via Bhatner (now known as Hanumangarh in Ganganagar district), Jait Singh, faced and defeated him and put him to flight. In 1541 A D., Maldeo, the ruler of Jodhpur, attacked Bikaner and killed Jait Singh and annexed about half of his territory². Jait Singh's family was sent under escort to Sirsa, where his son Kalyan Singh (also called Kalyan Mal by the Muslim historians), with the help of the Godara Jats, tried to fight against Maldeo. Kalyan Singh's brother Bhim Raj (Bhui Raj as mentioned in the *Khats*) went to Sher Shah in 1542³ and appealed to him for help by invading Marwar⁴. Sher Shah marched against Maldeo from Delhi via Narnaul and Fatehpur. Kalyan Singh also joined Sher Shah on the way. Hearing that Sher Shah had reached his borders, Maldeo asked Kupa, then stationed at Bikaner, to leave that place and return to join him⁵. Kupa left Bikaner for joining the forces of Jodhpur. After Kupa's withdrawal the forces of Bikaner under Kishan Singh Rawat, reoccupied the fort of Bikaner on Paush Sudi 15 v s 1601 (1544 A D)⁶. Sher Shah took the direct route to Nagaur and Merta and fortified his position at Samel, near Jaitaran. Maldeo's army had encamped 22 km (or 14 miles) off in the village of Girri⁷. Thus Sher Shah and Maldeo were encamped near each other but fighting did not start, each party was assessing the strength of his adversary. Then Maldeo beat retreat, but his generals fell fighting. Sher Shah marched to Jodhpur in 1544 A D and occupied it. In 1549 A D, Kalyan Singh's brother, Thakur Singh, wrested Bhatner, a strategic outpost, from the Chayals.

After a few years Humayun re-seized the empire and Suri rule came to an end. After his death, his son Akbar ascended the throne in 1556 A D and consolidated his empire. The Khan-i-Khana Bairam

1 Ojha, *op cit*, p 118

2 *ibid*, p 139

3 K R Kanoongo, *Sher Shah and his Times* (Calcutta), p 360

4 *ibid*,

5 Powlett, *op cit*, p 18

6 *ibid*,

7. Kanoongo, *loc cit*, p 397

Khan, his most trusted and loyal officer who served him up to 1560, lost his favour and was ordered to proceed to Mecca. On his way Bairam Khan turned and when he was being pursued by Akbar's forces, fled to Bikaner where he stayed for a few days with Kalyan Singh¹.

In 1570, Kalyan Singh, accompanied by his son Rai Singh, went to Nagaur to pay homage to Akbar and presented tribute to him and gave his daughter in marriage². Kalyan Singh died in 1571 A D

The next ruler Rai Singh (1571-1611 A D) had been one of the trusted generals of Akbar, and was employed in various important campaigns against Jodhpur, Gujrat, Sirohi, Bengal, the Deccan, Sind, Udaipur, the Punjab and Kabul. His daughter was married to prince Salim (afterwards the Emperor Jahangir) in 1586. He worked as the Subedar of Burhanpur, Surat and again of Burhanpur where he died in 1611. Akbar granted him a *mansab* of 4000, and the Sarkar of Nagaur in 1600. During this time, and afterwards also, a large part of the district remained as a jagir, granted to the progeny of Jodha's brother Kandhal's grandson, Waneer. Quite often, the Kandhalots or Waneerots rebelled against the authority of the Bikaner rulers but were subdued and suppressed. They were regranted their jagir after exacting heavy fine and *nazarana* from them.

Dalpat Singh succeeded Rai Singh as the ruler of the State of Bikaner, but he displeased some of the thakurs of the State. He deprived his brother, Sur Singh of his lands and the latter, therefore, approached the Emperor, at Delhi, who granted him Bikaner by displacing Dalpat Singh. One Nawab Zabita Khan was ordered to put Sur Singh in possession of Bikaner. Dalpat Singh defeated him at Chhapar, but Sur Singh succeeded in winning over many of the discontented nobles of Dalpat Singh. With the connivance of the Churu Thakur, Bhim Singh Balbhadrot, Dalpat Singh was made captive and sent to Hissar, from where he was carried to Ajmer and imprisoned. One Thakur Hathi Singh Champawat tried to effect his release by force but all in vain. In this attempt all the Rajputs, including Dalpat Singh were killed³. The Muslim historians, however, say that Jahangir was displeased with Sur Singh's arrogance in

1 Ojha, *op cit*, Elliot and Dowson, *History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol V, p. 265, quoted by Ojha, p. 153-54

2 Elliot & Dowson, *loc cit*, Vol V, p. 265.

3 Ojha, *op cit*, pp. 208-09

claiming the Bikaner *gadi* which was occupied by Dalpat Singh. The Emperor ordered Dalpat Singh to join Mirza Rustam, the governor of Sind, but the former did not. Meanwhile Sur Singh defeated him. Dalpat Singh created some disturbances in Hissar, where he was captured by Hashim the *faujdar* of that *Sarkar* and sent in fetters to (imperial) court, where he was executed by the royal orders as a warning to others¹.

Sur Singh (1613-31 A.D.) had held his sway over a large part of Sirsa and Hansi, besides the territories of Bikaner. He loyally served the Emperor and on many occasions rendered him distinguished service. His successor Karan Singh (1631-69) also served the Emperor. Karan Singh had two sons Kesari Singh and Padam Singh who were renowned for their bravery and prowess throughout the empire.

No important event took place during the regime of Anup Singh (1669-98), Swarup Singh (1698-1700) and Sujan Singh (1700-35). But during the reign of Maharaja Zorawar Singh (1735-45) some of the thakurs of the State, noted among them being the thakurs of Mahajan, Churu and Bhadra, instigated Abhay Singh, the ruler of Jodhpur to invade Bikaner. He was easily persuaded because he was already contemplating aggression. Hence in 1740, with the help of the discontented thakurs, he invaded Bikaner, but due to the timely help of the Jaipur ruler, had to raise the siege and retreat. Then the turbulent and rebellious Thakurs of Bhadra and Churu were crushed. The Thakur of Bhadra was imprisoned at Nahargarh, while Sangram Singh, the Thakur of Churu promised to pay a *nazrana* of 25,000 rupees. In 1741 as a result of a cleverly laid plot, Sangram Singh and his brother Bhopat Singh were killed, and Churu was occupied by Zorawar Singh. All the relations of the late Thakur (the Waneerots) were turned out of the fort, but after six months, Churu was again granted in *Jagir* to Sangram Singh's son, Dhirat Singh.

Bikaner was invaded again by Jodhpur during Gaj Singh's reign (1745-88) in the year 1747 A.D. but after a bitter fight, the Jodhpur army returned defeated. Powlett writes, "The Jodhpur loss was double, and so complete was its defeat that it had to burn its tents and retire to Jodhpur to the extreme vexation of Raja Abhai

1 Ojha, *op cit*, pp 208-09

Singh¹. The Thakur of Bhadra turned rebellious, but was subdued by the ruler in person. However, the political situation offered an opportunity to the discontented thakurs, especially the Bidavats of *Bidavati* (the area around Bidasar and Chhapar) to start outrageous activities. Gaj Singh proceeded to Chhapar to quell the rebellious Bidavats namely Muhabbat Singh, Devi Singh and Sangram Singh, and killed them and restored peace in the area. Such incidents led the ruler to fortify the strategic places throughout his kingdom. The year 1755-56 witnessed a serious famine when arrangements were made to distribute daily food to the effected populace.

In 1759 Gaj Singh went to Bidasar and levied a tax termed as *Bhachhi*². He founded Rajgarh, a town named after his son, Raj Singh, which is at present a sub-divisional headquarters.

In v s 1832 (1775 A D) the heir-apparent Raj Singh rose in rebellion under the instigation of Diwan, Rao Mehta Bakhtawar Singh and some other disgruntled thakurs. All the conspirators, however, left the rebellious prince one by one, except the Thakur of Churu, with whom the prince lived at Deshnok for five years under the sanctuary of Karaniji. The prince, thereafter, escaped to Jodhpur where he was welcomed by Maharaja Bijay Singh, a friend of Maharaja Gaj Singh. At the request of Gaj Singh, Bijay Singh advised the rebel to return to Bikaner. Raj Singh was received cordially by his father, but his other brothers, at the instigation of their father, imprisoned him. His Jodhpur attendants fought loyally for his release but were persuaded to desist by the Jodhpur ruler. When the Maharaja was ill he sent for Raj Singh and the father and the son were reconciled. Gaj Singh died in 1788.

Raj Singh (1788 A D) did not live long. Due to his ill-health he died a few weeks after his father³. His successor Maharaja Pratap Singh (1788) also survived only a few months as he was murdered by his uncle Surat Singh⁴, who ascended the Bikaner *gadi* in 1788.

1 Powlett, P.W , *Gazetteer of Bikaner State* (1874), reprint (1935), p 50

2 Ojha, G H , *op cit* , pp 345-46

3 Tod, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, p 1137. He says that Raj Singh enjoyed the dignity only for thirteen days being removed by his step-mother (the mother of his younger brother Surat Singh) *ibid* , p 1138

4 *ibid* , p 1139.

MODERN PERIOD

Surat Singh (1788–1828) had no smooth sailing in the troubled waters of the politics of that time. Within three years of his accession some of the thakurs rebelled against him. First he marched against Thakur Shiv Singh of Churu in v.s 1847 (1790 A D) and compelled him to pay¹ Rs 95,000 as *nazrana*. Some of the other thakurs were also forced to pay *nazrana*. He improved his relations with Maharaja Bijay Singh, the ruler of Jodhpur, in v s 1848 (1791 A D). In 1798 A D he despatched Hari Shankar Vyas who successfully settled the boundary dispute between Bikaner and Jaipur. Next year, when the Marathas invaded Jaipur, its ruler appealed to Surat Singh for help. George Thomas, an Irish freebooter, also joined the Marathas against Jaipur. The intruders had to retreat due to difficult climatic conditions, but Thomas could not get reconciled to the position taken by Maharaja Surat Singh against him in favour of Jaipur. Hence he intruded into the State from the north and seized some villages and plundered their inhabitants. Some of the nobles of the Maharaja did not offer him full co-operation, as a result of which, further advance of Thomas could be checked only by agreeing to pay him two lacs. Half the amount was paid there and for the other half Hundies were issued to certain Jaipur bankers². But the latter did not honour the bills which enraged Thomas. He, therefore, marched again against the Maharaja and acquired some territory around Bhatner (modern Hanumangarh in Ganganagar district) by force. The Maharaja received timely help from the Maharaja of Patiala and compelled Thomas to retire³. Surat Singh advanced towards the north-west boundary of the State and interposed in the struggle going on between the Daudputras (in the west and north-west of the Bikaner State) one of whom averted the seizure of his land by paying the Maharaja an amount of Rupees two lacs.⁴

In 1807, Maharaja Surat Singh helped the ruler of Jaipur against Jodhpur in which Jodhpur suffered defeat. It led Jodhpur to induce Amir Khan Pindari to advance against Jaipur. The appearance of the Pindaris on the scene resulted in the retreat of the combined forces of Jaipur and Bikaner. Man Singh, the ruler of Jodhpur, then,

1, Ojha, *op cit*, Vol V, part II, p 367

2 Lester Hutchinson *European Freebooters in Mugal India*, Bombay, 1964, pp 94-95, Ojha, *op cit*, pp 372-73

3 Ojha, *op cit*, pp 374-75

4 *ibid*, p 376

advanced against Bikaner. After a fierce struggle between the two armies, the Bikaner ruler agreed to pay Rupees two lacs and the Jodhpur forces retired

At this time, in 1806 A D Mountstuart Elphinstone, the British envoy, passed through Bikaner territory on his way to Kabul. He visited Churu and described it as being nearly, "a mile and a half round without counting its large but mean suburbs, and though situated among naked sand-hills, it has a very handsome appearance. The houses are all terraced and both they and the walls are built of a kind of limestone of so pure a white that it gives an air of greatness to everything composed of it. It is, however, soft and crumbles into a white powder, mixed here and there with shells, it is found in large beds in many parts of the desert¹".

The Maharaja treated him with esteem and asked him to secure British protection for Bikaner which was not granted due to the British policy of neutrality²

Between 1809 and 1813, Surat Singh engaged himself in punishing refractory chiefs. His minister, Amar Chand took prominent part in these operations. The rebels were plundered, fined and some of them killed. The Thakur of Churu, Shiv Singh also showed his leanings towards the refractory nobles and, therefore, in v s 1871 (1814 A D) Amar Chand was sent to annex Churu. The fort was besieged and an attempt to get supplies from Sikar failed, the convoy almost falling into Amar Chand's hands. The seige, however, dragged on for many weeks. Then the thakur died³. The fort of Churu surrendered. Prithvi Singh, son of Thakur Shiv Singh, was permitted to go to Jodhpur, whence he acquired military help of Shekhawats in 1815 and attempted to recover his patrimony. Other thakurs viz, of Bhadra, Dadrewa, Nimba, Jessana, Rawatsar and Birkali, also rose in rebellion, but they were suppressed. The Churu Thakur could not recover his patrimony, but was successful in ravaging and plundering the outlying villages specially Ratangarh. Then he went to Ramgarh (in Shekhawati). Later he obtained help of Amir Khan Pindari who ravaged villages of the Bikaner State and advanced as far as to Chhapar. Here the Bidavats forced him to return to Jhunjhun. With the aid

1 Quoted by Erskine, in *Western Rajputana States and the Bikaner Agency*, Vol (1909), p 388

2 Ojha, *op cit*, pp 389-90, Erskine, *op cit*, p 325

3 Ojha, *op cit*, pp. 397-98

of the Kayam Khanis, the thakur regained the fort of Churu on 23rd November, 1817¹ after a serious fight with the forces of the ruler of Bikaner.

Under these circumstances, through his *vakil* Kashi Nath Ojha, Surat Singh negotiated and concluded a treaty with the British Resident Mr Charles Metcalfe on 9th March, 1818, by which Surat Singh and his successors were bound to "subordinate co-operation" and the British Government agreed to protect the territories and, on application, to reduce his rebellious subjects to obedience, no tribute was exacted as the State had paid none to the Marathas. Shortly afterwards, British troops entered the Bikaner territory and helped the ruler in restoring peace and order in the State.

In 1824 the Thakur of Dadreva, Surajmal Bika, rebelled against the ruler and occupied a village in the adjoining British territory. On the instance of the British Government, the Bikaner forces marched against the rebellious thakur who was driven out of the State. Surat Singh died in 1828.

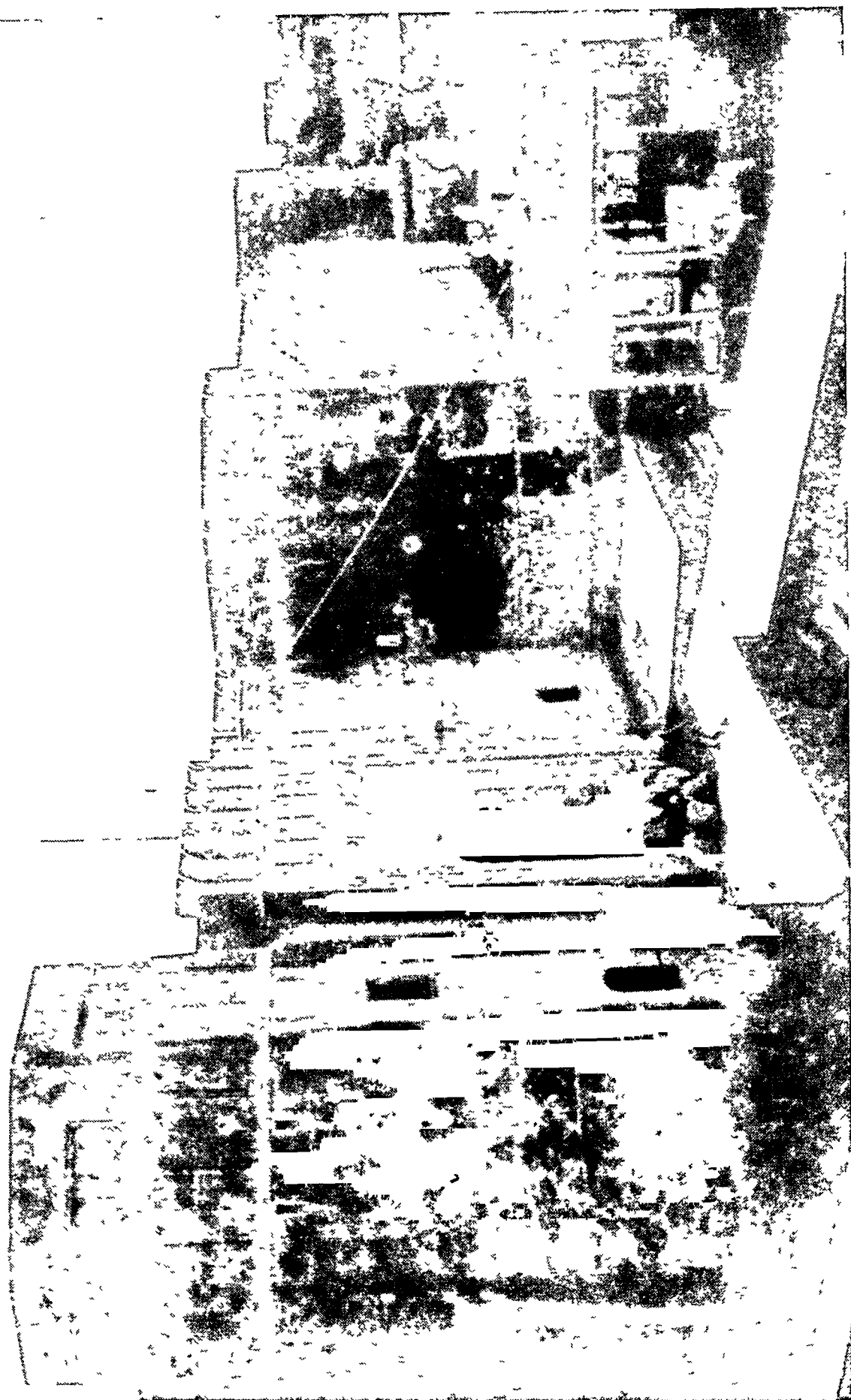
During the rule of Maharaja Ratan Singh (1828-51), to settle the boundary dispute amongst the Bikaner, Jaipur and Jodhpur States, a conference of the three rulers was held in 1829 in which George Clerk participated on behalf of the British Government. In this very meeting the problems of dacoity were also thrashed out and it was decided that all the three States would destroy the fortresses of the notorious dacoit thakurs in their respective areas.

But the dacoities did not cease. Hence Colonel Alves, Agent to the Governor General for Rajputana, and Maharaja Ratan Singh met at Ratangarh in v s 1891 (1834 A D) where it was arranged that a detachment of British troops should be stationed at Jhunjhun in Shekhawati to prevent further disturbances and depredations and that the States concerned should pay their cost. The Bikaner darbar agreed to pay Rs 22,000 annually as their share. This detachment was to comprise 100 Bidavats (Rajputs) under Risaldar Sangram Singh of Charwas and Jamadar Anji of Bhojola.²

In v s 1901 (1844 A D) the Maharaja prohibited infanticide and issued orders for reduction of expenditure on the marriages of

1 Ojha, *op cit*, pp 397-98

2 Ojha, *op cit*, p, 422, Also *Administrative Report of the Bikaner State 1893-94*, p 34



daughters In 1841 A D. and in 1845 A D.¹, the boundary disputes between the Bikaner and the Jaipur States and those between the Bikaner and the Jodhpur were settled respectively. In 1844, the Maharaja reduced the scale of duties on British goods in transit through his territory from about eight rupees per camel load to eight annas (fifty paise).

During the regime² of Sardar Singh (1851-1872) in 1855, Thakur Ishwari Singh of Churu tried to regain his lost jagir by force, but he lost his life in the struggle The Maharaja prohibited the *Sati* system in his State in 1854 A D

It was during Sardar Singh's reign that the British Government had to face the upheaval of 1857. The Maharaja helped the British Government by supplying men and material and giving shelter to the Europeans He stayed at Bhadra and despatched his troops to Hissar, Hansi and Sirsa to aid the Government He stationed Dr. Coleridge at Rajgarh to look after the emergency cases. The Maharaja's forces comprised eminent nobles from forty-seven *thikanas*³ In lieu of his services, the British Government granted him the tibi tract comprising forty-one villages of the Sirsa district in the Punjab Besides this grant he was also accorded the right of adoption⁴

In May 1868 an Assistant to the Agent of Governor General was headquartered at Sujangarh near the trijunction of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner States He was to check dacoities in the area, and was also entrusted with the political charge of the Bikaner State. Captain Powlett was the first officer posted as such, but he could not effect any improvement in the administration of the State.⁵ The first British Post Office was opened at Sujangarh in 1868. Another event of this reign was the extradition treaty of 1869 signed between the British Government and the Bikaner State. It was subsequently modified in 1887.

In 1871, the Maharaja overhauled the administrative machinery and established a council and regular civil, criminal and revenue courts in his State. He died in 1872.

The next ruler, Maharaja Dungar Singh (1872-87) concluded a treaty with the British Government for the manufacture and sale of

1. *Administration Report of the Bikaner State* 1893-94, p. 35.

2. Powlett gives 1852 A D as the date of Maharaja Sardar Singh's accession

3. Ojha, *op cit*, pp 446-448

4. *ibid*, pp 451-452 and 454.

5. Powlett - *Gazetteer of the Bikaner State* 1874 (Reprint 1935), p 78

salt in the Bikaner State—especially at Chhapar and Lunkaransar in January 1879. As a part of the General Census, the census of the State including this district was taken up. In order to reorganise the revenue administration of the State, a summary settlement of Khalsa villages of this area was made in 1884. In the same year, *Sadar* courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction were abolished and four *nizamats* were set up, of which the *Sujangarh Nizamat* comprised Sujangarh, Dungargarh, Ratangarh and Sardarshahr tahsils, and *Reni Nizamat* included Churu, Rajgarh, Bhadra and Nohar tahsils (the region of the last two are now included in Gangangar district). In 1885 a dispensary was opened at Sujangarh¹. Schools were opened in Reni (now Taranagar) and Sardarshahr in 1885. At Churu, a banker set up a school at his own the next year. In 1887-88 two new schools, one each at Ratangarh and Rajgarh, were opened. In 1885 branch dispensaries were opened at Sujangarh and Reni, in 1886 at Ratangarh, Sardarshahr and Churu and in 1887 at Rajgarh. In 1885-86, British Post Offices were established in all the principal towns of this area viz., Sardarshahr, Ratangarh, Churu, Reni and Bidasar. In brief it may be said that Dungar Singh initiated the process of modernisation.

This policy of modernisation was taken up with greater keenness by his successor Maharaja Ganga Singh (1887-1943). During minority, a Regency Council was formed to administer the State on his behalf. It worked up to 1898 when he was invested with full ruling powers.

At the outset, the Maharaja had to fight hard against the appalling famine of 1899 locally called as *Chhappania Kal*. The relief measures undertaken by him were appreciated both by the British Government and the people. The Maharaja worked for the extension of railway in his State and raised its length from 157 kilometres (98 miles) to 1440 km (900 miles). He revised and revitalized the institution of local self-government (1917), instituted the Legislative Assembly (1913) and the High Court (1922).

He offered his help to the Government in the Boer War, the Boxer War (China), and the World Wars I and II. He was one of the founders of the Chamber of Princes and served it in more than one capacity. He attended the Imperial War Cabinet meeting and conferences and was one of the signatories to the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. He led the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations in 1930.

1 *Administration Report of the Bikaner State 1893-94*, p. 38

On behalf of the ruling princes he participated in the Round Table Conferences held in London. He was appointed A D C. to the King Emperor (1910) who conferred on him the honour of G C S I., G C I E, G C V.C., G B E, K C B.

His monumental work is the construction of the Gang Canal which has brought relief to the arid Rajasthan by turning the desert into a surplus growing zone in Rajasthan. On 26th October, 1927 Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy opened the Canal, which was named after its builder as Gang Canal.

Maharaja Ganga Singh was succeeded by Maharaja Sadul Singh in 1943. He reorganised district administration. He created new districts and put each district under an officer designated as Deputy Commissioner. The newly formed district of Churu comprised Churu, Rajgarh, Taranagar (formerly Reni), Ratangarh, Sardarshahr, Dungargarh and Sujangarh tahsils. The Deputy Commissioner was assisted by two Assistant Commissioners posted at Rajgarh and Ratangarh. Each Assistant Commissioner was assisted by Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars.

In 1949 when the State of Bikaner merged into Rajasthan, no territorial changes were made in this district, except that it was further sub-divided to form three sub-divisions viz, Churu, Rajgarh and Ratangarh.

Political Awakening in the District

The growth of political consciousness in the district is linked with that of the Bikaner district, as it had been a part of the erstwhile State of the same name.

The political agitation in British India after 1912 could not but have its repercussions in the States of Rajasthan. To channelise the new awareness of his subjects the Maharaja devised a scheme for establishing a Representative Assembly (later named as Legislative Assembly) which was actually formed in 1913. The Assembly had an initial membership of 35 (both nominated and elected) having the powers of legislation, deliberation and interpellations, but the restrictions imposed made it ineffective.

The emergence of Mahatma Gandhi on the national scene gave birth to the cult of *Khadi* and *Satyagraha* which affected also the princely

States Political workers, like Arjun Lal Sethi, Jamana Lal Bajaj and Chand Karan Sharda, tried to enter the State to organise political activity but they were not permitted. At Ratangarh, some political enthusiasts founded a Sabha known as *Brahmcharya Ashrama Sadvidya Pracharini Sabha*,¹ which organised meetings and staged plays exposing the autocracy of the Government. Efforts were made also to popularise *Khadi* and *Swadeshi* goods. But no political movement could be organised because the entry of leaders from outside was banned.² There were no local workers who had courage to suffer the consequences of joining it.

The States Peoples' Conference functioning outside the State publicised the high-handedness of the State Government not only to the people of other States but also of British India and a pamphlet exposing the nature of the Bikaner Government was circulated among the members of the British Parliament.³ The Maharaja was then in London, where he had been to attend the Round Table Conference. On his return orders were issued to arrest those suspected to be the authors of the pamphlet. Then a Public Safety Act (1932) generally called by the people as *Kala Kanoon* (Black Act) was enacted which prohibited all types of agitation, entry of any book or newspaper in the State by post or mail containing matter likely to create dissatisfaction against the government or the ruler. Public meetings could not be held without prior permission of the State authorities.⁴

The *Riyasat* and the *Princely India*, published from Delhi, devoted special columns to the political affairs in the different States of Rajasthan. They published several articles criticising the administration and the ruler of the Bikaner State. The local workers convened a meeting at Churu wherein several speeches were delivered criticising the Government policy of enhancing rents and taxes etc., and suppressing the political movement. As a result eight persons were put under arrest on 14th January, 1932. They were prosecuted for seditious activities in camera and the trial dragged on for two years.

To protest against it the Rajasthanis residing in Bombay held a meeting on 23rd September, 1933 and resolved to form a committee to be known as "The Bikaner Political Case Committee".⁵ This Committee

1 The exact date and year of its foundation is not traceable

2 Thakur Desraj Chaudhari *Harish Chandra Naina* (1964), pp 206-207

3 C Biswas *Bikaner the Land of the Marwaris*, pp 78-79

4 Sarangdhardas *Bikaner*, quoted by Biswas, *op cit*, pp 77-78

5 The *National Call*, dated 27-9-1933, File No 60-1933 (News paper cuttings), Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner

conducted a wide campaign in British India against the persecution, ill-treatment and denial of justice to the political workers in Bikaner State. The 17th December, 1933 was observed as "Bikaner Day" at many places in British India. At last, the trial at Bikaner came to an end and the judgement was delivered on 8th January, 1934 sentencing seven out of the eight accused to terms of imprisonment ranging from six months to two and a half years.

The policy of suppression was responsible for the closure of several reading rooms and libraries which were run ostensibly on educational lines by some social workers and philanthropists but were the centre of political ideas. Even the Arya Samaj could not escape the notice of the police. In the Ganganagar *Nizamats* some educational activities, however, continued to function under workers like Harish Chandra Naina and Swami Keshvanand. The latter was conducting the Sangaria Jat School which was later renamed as Gramotthan Vidyapeeth, Sangaria.

Due to the repressive measures of the State authorities the attempt to set up the Bikaner Rajya Praja Mandal in 1935-36 was not successful. A second attempt to establish a Praja Parishad in 1942 also proved abortive. Raghubar Dayal Goel, one of the leading political workers was exiled from the State. The State authorities did whatever they could do to suppress all activities of political or reformative nature. Even the *Khadi Bhandars* were ordered to be closed.

Maharaja Ganga Singh died in 1943. His successor Maharaja Sadul Singh released some political workers. He made a correct appraisal of the political situation and introduced certain administrative reforms to meet the basic demands of the people.

Mangha Ram Vaid, a political worker, opened a branch of the Praja Parishad, which was later renamed Praja Mandal. It began to collect subscription for Kasturba Memorial Fund, but the persons responsible for collection were interned. This worsened the political climate of the State. Repeated appeals from the political workers for granting civil liberties fell on the deaf ears of the authorities.

The condition of the people and peasants in the jagirs were well-nigh intolerable. The jagirdars used to extort as much as they could. The people were too afraid and down-trodden to protest. Eventually they tried to approach the Maharaja to redress their grievances but they could not. Then the Praja Parishad for the first time in the history of

Bikaner State organised a procession. Kisans, men and women paraded the streets of the city carrying tri-coloured flags in their hands and shouting national slogans. Many persons were arrested and tortured. Even the members of the family of the political workers were prosecuted by the police and no legal aid was made available to them.¹ The Kisans were now bent upon demonstrating their sufferings. The Kisans of Dudhwa Khara (in Rajgarh)² came forward to voice their grievances. They were lathi charged as a result of which several of them sustained injuries and no medical aid was provided.

On 30th June 1st July 1946, the first Bikaner political conference was held at Raisinghnagar (in Ganganagar district)³. The people paraded the streets with tri-coloured flags and the police lathi charged them. When it proved ineffective firing was resorted to, resulting in one death. Protest meetings were held all over the State and many persons were interned.

In the second half of the year 1946, small political associations viz., Praja Sevak Sangha, Praja Mandal, Muslim League, Jat Sabha were formed. It is said that the State encouraged the organisations in order to weaken the Parja Parishad⁴.

In these circumstances, the Maharaja, on 31st August 1946, proclaimed that a constitution-making body would be set up for forming a responsible government. This move was the result of the political events in the British India. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had formed the Interim government of India and the British Government had declared their intention to leave the country by June 1948.

The newly framed constitution was proclaimed by the Maharaja on 14th December, 1947. After this the events followed in quick succession. A ministry composed of equal members from both the 'nobility' and the 'people', was formed under the Prime Ministership of Kunwar Jaswant Singh of Daudsar. The newly constituted ministry tried to run the government under the aegis of the ruler of the State but it could not make much headway due to the feudal elements in it.

1 Biswas, *op cit*, p. 89.

2 *Ibid*, pp 89-90. Also Thakur Deshraj, *op cit*, pp 212-213.

3 *ibid*, p. 90.

4 Biswas, *op cit*, p. 90.

5 Thakur Desraj, *op cit*, pp 214-16.

Hence the popular ministers resigned and their resignations were accepted with effect from 8th September, 1948¹. Jaswant Singh was asked by the Maharaja to continue to work as Prime Minister, till his substitute was appointed.

On Sardar Patel's persuasion the Maharaja agreed to merge his State into the United State of Rajasthan in 1949, and thus the area now comprising the district became part of the newly created Rajasthan. Churu became the headquarters of the district, and a Collector was posted there. He began to run the district administration from 30th March, 1949

1. Thakur Desraj, *op cit*, pp 230-31.

APPENDIX I

Statement of the Rulers of the Bikaner State

| S No | Name | Date of Birth | Date of Accession | Age at Accession | Date of Demise | Period of Reign | Age |
|------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | Yrs M | | Yrs M | Yrs M |
| 1 | Rao Bika | Sawan Sud 15th S 1495 (A D 1434) | Sambhat 1522 (A D 1465) | 27 0 | Asoj Sud 3rd S 1561 (A D 1504) | 39 0 | 66 2 |
| 2 | Rao Noro | Katu Bad 4th S 1525 (A D 1468) | Asoj Sud 15th S 1561 (A D 1504) | 36 0 | Magh Sud 8th S 1561 (A D 1505) | 0 4 | 36 4 |
| 3 | Rao Lunkaran | Magh Sud 10th S. 1526 (A D 1470) | Phagun Bad 4th S 1561 (A D. 1505) | 35 0 | Sawan Bad 4th S 1583 (A D 1526) | 21 5 | 56 5 |
| 4. | Rao Jetsi | Katuk Sud 8th S 1546 (A D 1489) | Sawan Bad 30th S. 1583 (A D 1526) | 36 9 | Chait Bad 11th S 1598 (A D 1542) | 15 8 | 52 5 |
| 5 | Rao Kalyan Singh | Magh Sud 6th S 1575 (A D 1519) | Chait Sud 8 S 1599 (A D 1542) | 23 2 | Baisakh Bad 5th S 1628 (A D 1571) | 29 0 | 52 3 |
| 6 | Raja Rai Singh | Sawan Bad 12th S 1598 (A D. 1541) | Baisakh Sud 1st S 1628 (A D 1571) | 29 9 | Magh Bad 30th S 1668 (A D. 1612) | 40 9 | 70 6 |
| 7 | Raja Dalpat Singh | Phagun Bad 8th 1621 (A.D. 1565) | Chait Sud 6th S 1669 (A D 1612) | 46 11 | Phagun Bad 11th S 1670 (A D 1614) | 1 10 | 49 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| 8. | Raja Sur Singh | Poh Sud 12th S. 1651 (A.D. 1595) | Magsar S 1670 (A D. 1613) | 18 11 | Asoj Bad 30th S 1688 (A D. 1631) | 17 10 | 36 9 |
| 9. | Raja Karan Singh | Sawan Sud 6th S. 1673 (A D 1616) | Katik Bad 13th S. 1688 (A D 1631) | 15 3 | Asadh Sud 4th S. 1726 (A D 1669) | 37 8 | 52 11 |
| 10. | Maharaja Anup Singh | Chait Sud 6th S 1695 (A D 1638) | Sawan Bad 1st S 1726 (A D. 1669) | 31 3 | Jeth Sud 9th S. 1755 (A D 1698) | 28 10 | 60 2 |
| 11 | Maharaja Sarup Singh | Bhadwa Bad 1st S. 1746 (A D. 1689) | Asadh Bad 6th S 1755 (A D 1698) | 8 10 | Magsar Sud 15th S 1757 (A D 1700) | 2 6 | 11 4 |
| 12. | Maharaja Sujan Singh | Sawan Sud 3rd S 1747 (A.D. 1690) | Poh Bad 12th S. 1757 (A D. 1700) | 10 5 | Poh Sud 13th S. 1792 (A D 1735) | 35 1 | 45 5 |
| 13. | Maharaja Zorawar Singh | Magh Bad 14th S. 1769 (A.D. 1713) | Magh Bad 9th S. 1792 (A.D. 1736) | 23 0 | Jeth Sud 6th S 1802 (A.D 1745) | 9 4 | 32 4 |
| 14. | Maharaja Gaj Singh | Chait Sud 4th S. 1780 (A D. 1723) | Asadh Bad 14th S. 1802 (A.D. 1745) | 22 3 | Chait Sud 6th S. 1844 (A D 1787) | 41 9 | 64 0 |
| 15. | Maharaja Raj Singh | Katik Bad 2nd S. 1801 (A.D. 1744) | Baisakh Bad 2nd S 1844 (A D 1787) | 42 6 | Baisakh Sud 8th S. 1844 (A D 1787) | 0 21 days | 42 6 |
| 16. | Maharaja Pratap Singh | S. 1838 (A.D. 1781) | Jeth Bad 4th S. 1844 (A D. 1787) | 6 0 | Asoj Bad 13th S. 1844 (A.D. 1787) | 0 4 | 6 4 |
| 17. | Maharaja Surat Singh | Poh Sud 6th S. 1822 (A.D. 1766) | Asoj Sud 10th S. 1844 (A.D. 1787) | 21 9 | Chait Sud 9th S. 1885 (A.D. 1828) | 41 6 | 62 3 |

APPENDIX I (Concl'd)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--|---|--|----|----|------------------------------------|----|--------|
| 18. Maharaja Ratan Singh | Poh Bad 9th S. 1847 (A D 1791) | Baisakh Bad 5th S 1885 (A D 1828) | 37 | 4 | Sawan Sud 11th S 1908 (A D 1851) | 23 | 4 60 7 |
| 19. Maharaja Sardar Singh | Bhadwa Sud 14th S 1875 (A D 1818) | Bhadwa Bad 7th S 1908 (A D 1851) | 33 | 0 | Baisakh Sud 8th S 1929 (A.D 1872) | 20 | 9 53 8 |
| 20. Maharaja Dungar Singh ¹ | Bhadwa Bad 14th S 1911 (A D 1854) | Sawan Sud 7th S. 1929 (A D 1872) | 17 | 11 | Bhadwa Bad 30th S 1944 (A D. 1887) | 15 | 1 33 0 |
| 21. Maharaja Ganga Singh | Asoj Sud 10th S. 1937 (A D 13th Oct., 1880) | Bhadwa Sud 13th S 1944 (31st Aug., 1887) | 6 | 10 | 2nd February, 1943 | 55 | 5 62 4 |
| 22. Maharaja Sardul Singh | 7th September, 1902 | 2nd February, 1943 | | | | | |

1. From S No 1 to 20 the names with other particulars have been taken from *House of Bikaner* (Official Publication of the Bikaner State), p. 209

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

POPULATION

Total Population

The population of the district according to the Census of 1961 was 6,59,011. The distribution of population among the various administrative units was as follows¹

| Unit | Area | | Population | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| | (Sq. miles) | (Sq km) | Total | Males | Females |
| 1 Churu District | 6,509.7 | 16,860 1 | 6,59,011 | 3,40,048 | 3,18,963 |
| 2. Rajgarh (Sub-Division) | 1,555 2 | 4,027.9 | 1,72,481 | 91,129 | 81,352 |
| 3 Ratangarh (Sub-Division) | 2,855 6 | 7,396 1 | 2,90,162 | 1,47,700 | 1,42,462 |
| 4 Churu (Sub-Division) | 2,098 9 | 5,436 1 | 1,96,368 | 1,01,219 | 95,149 |
| 5. Taranagar Tahsil | 704 9 | 1,825.6 | 57,014 | 29,998 | 27,016 |
| 6 Rajgarh Tahsil | 850 3 | 2,202 3 | 1,15,467 | 61,131 | 54,336 |
| 7. Sardarshahr Tahsil | 1,485 3 | 3,846 9 | 98,694 | 50,938 | 47,756 |
| 8. Churu Tahsil | 613.6 | 1,589 2 | 97,674 | 50,281 | 47,393 |
| 9. Dungargarh Tahsil | 1,159.7 | 3,003.7 | 66,802 | 34 106 | 32,696 |
| 10 Ratangarh Tahsil | 655.6 | 1,698 0 | 90,262 | 45,848 | 44,414 |
| 11 Sujangarh Tahsil | 1,040 3 | 2,694 4 | 1,33,098 | 67,746 | 65,352 |

Growth of population

The density of population in the district as a whole, is 39 persons per sq. km, as against 59 for the State and 148 for the country. In 1911, 1921, 1931, 1941 and 1951 it was 31, 27, 22, 18 and 18 per sq km. respectively

In 1901, the population of the district was 2,60,186 which increased to 2,99,349 in 1911 but decreased to 2,99,067 in 1921 mainly due to drought which caused migration from the rural areas. Since 1921 the population of the district has steadily grown. It shows the increase is

¹ Census of India 1961, Vol XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-A, p. 22

greater than in the State or the country during the present century. The rise in the population during these four decades (1921-61) is primarily due to the high birth rate in the district. The variation of population during the last sixty years is summed-up in the following table

| Year | Decade variation | Percentage decade variation | Rajasthan State | India |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1901-11 | + 39,163 | + 15.05 | + 6.70 | + 5.75 |
| 1911-21 | — 282 | — 0.09 | — 6.29 | — 0.31 |
| 1921-31 | + 66,562 | + 22.26 | + 14.14 | + 11.00 |
| 1931-41 | + 89,811 | + 24.56 | + 18.01 | + 14.22 |
| 1941-51 | + 68,210 | + 14.98 | + 15.20 | + 13.31 |
| 1951-61 | + 1,35,361 | + 25.85 | + 26.20 | + 21.51 |
| 1901-61 | | + 153.28 | + 95.80 | + 85.94 |

Sex Ratio

In this district, as in the other districts of Rajasthan, males outnumber females. It had 938 females for every 1,000 males in 1961 as against the corresponding proportion of 908 in the State and 941 in the country. The sex ratio was 932 in 1901, 922 in 1911, 926 in 1921, 924 in 1931, 908 in 1941, 939, in 1951 and 938 in 1961. The sex ratio in the rural and the urban areas in the district during the Census years 1901-61 was as under :

| Year | Sex ratio—Number of females per 1,000 males | |
|------|---|-------|
| | Rural | Urban |
| 1901 | 899 | 1,060 |
| 1911 | 889 | 1,068 |
| 1921 | 887 | 1,027 |
| 1931 | 892 | 1,000 |
| 1941 | 901 | 923 |
| 1951 | 902 | 1,011 |
| 1961 | 917 | 985 |

Age

According to the 1951 and 1961 Censuses the age-wise distribution of population in the district was as follows

| Age-Group | Percentage | | Total Population |
|----------------|------------|-------|------------------|
| | 1951 | 1961 | |
| 0-4 | 11.14 | 16.57 | 1,09,197 |
| 5-9 | 11.36 | 15.45 | 1,02,119 |
| 10-14 | 11.78 | 12.55 | 82,798 |
| 15-19 | 8.11 | 8.30 | 54,304 |
| 20-24 | 7.89 | 8.49 | 55,944 |
| 25-29 | 8.51 | 7.68 | 50,718 |
| 30-34 | 7.63 | 6.42 | 42,300 |
| 35-44 | 13.50 | 9.45 | 62,264 |
| 45-59 | 12.05 | 9.09 | 59,888 |
| 60 and above | 7.75 | 5.84 | 38,459 |
| Age not stated | — | 0.15 | 1,020 |

Distribution of population between Rural and Urban Areas

According to the 1961 Census the total urban and rural population of the district was 2,08,043 (1,04,820 males and 1,03,223 females) or 31.57 per cent and 4,50,968 (2,35,228 males and 2,15,740 females) or 68.43 per cent of the total population of the district respectively. The density of the population per sq. mile in the district was 101 and that in the urban and rural areas was 900 and 72 respectively. The percentage of variation of population during the period 1901-61 was as follows:

| Decade | Percentage decade variation | |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | Rural | Urban |
| 1901-11 | + 16.02 | + 11.62 |
| 1911-21 | — 9.91 | + 36.19 |
| 1921-31 | + 19.36 | + 29.34 |
| 1931-41 | + 18.87 | + 37.42 |
| 1941-51 | + 12.41 | + 19.99 |
| 1951-61 | + 33.21 | + 12.39 |
| 1901-61 | + 122.05 | + 264.37 |

According to the 1961 Census the distribution of the rural population in the district was as follows¹

| District/Tahsil | Area | | Population per | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------------|-------|
| | sq miles | sq km | sq mile | sq km |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Churu District | 6,278 5 | 16,261 3 | 72 | 27 |
| Taranagar Tahsil | 689 7 | 1,786 4 | 68 | 25 |
| Rajgarh Tahsil | 823 5 | 2,132 9 | 118 | 46 |
| Sardarshahr Tahsil | 1,470 9 | 3,809.5 | 45 | 17 |
| Churu Tahsil | 574 6 | 1,488 2 | 90 | 34 |
| Dungargarh Tahsil | 1,133 9 | 2,936 8 | 45 | 17 |
| Ratangarh Tahsil | 605 4 | 1,568 0 | 87 | 33 |
| Sujargarh Tahsil | 980 5 | 2,539 5 | 87 | 33 |

| District/Tahsil | Population | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| | Persons | Males | Females |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Churu District | 4,50,968 | 2,35,228 | 2,15,740 |
| Taranagar Tahsil | 46,608 | 24,645 | 21,963 |
| Rajagarh Tahsil | 97,331 | 51,599 | 45,732 |
| Sardarshahr Tahsil | 66,622 | 34,812 | 31,810 |
| Churu Tahsil | 51,584 | 26,709 | 24,875 |
| Dungargarh Tahsil | 50,479 | 26,057 | 24,422 |
| Ratangarh Tahsil | 52,651 | 27,118 | 25,533 |
| Sujargarh Tahsil | 85,693 | 44,288 | 41,405 |

The density of the rural population is the highest in Rajgarh tahsil and the lowest in Sardarshahr and Dungargarh tahsils being 46 and 17 persons per sq km respectively. Next in order are Churu, Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Taranagar tahsils.

According to the 1961 Census the district had 843 inhabited villages and 11 towns. The average population for an inhabited village

¹ Census of India 1961, Vol XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-A, p 22

worked out at 781.7. A village does not necessarily comprise a single compact unit. The villages with inhabitants numbering less than 500, from 500 to 2,000 and from 2,000 to 5,000 are 482, 345 and 16 respectively and account for 27.81, 57.45 and 14.74 per cent of the total rural population of the district respectively.

In 1901 the number of towns in the district was five which rose to nine in 1921, to 10 in 1941 and to 11 in 1951. The area, density and population of towns according to the Census of 1961 was as follows:

| S No. | Name of Town | Area | | Population | | Population | | |
|-------|--------------|----------|-------|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------|
| | | sq miles | sq km | per sq mile | per sq km | Males | Females | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | Churu | 24.25 | 62.81 | 1,721 | 656 | 21,486 | 20,241 | 41,727 |
| 2 | Sardarshahr | 14.43 | 37.37 | 2,223 | 858 | 16,126 | 15,946 | 32,072 |
| 3. | Rajgarh | 26.79 | 69.39 | 677 | 260 | 9,532 | 8,604 | 18,136 |
| 4. | Ratangarh | 23.30 | 60.35 | 1,143 | 441 | 13,400 | 13,231 | 26,631 |
| 5 | Dungargarh | 25.80 | 66.82 | 633 | 244 | 8,049 | 8,274 | 16,323 |
| 6 | Rajaldesar | 26.91 | 69.70 | 408 | 157 | 5,330 | 5,650 | 10,980 |
| 7. | Taranagar | 15.13 | 39.19 | 688 | 265 | 5,353 | 5,053 | 10,406 |
| 8. | Bidasar | 36.32 | 94.07 | 259 | 98 | 4,608 | 4,781 | 9,389 |
| 9. | Chhapar | 7.43 | 19.24 | 976 | 377 | 3,550 | 3,705 | 7,255 |
| 10 | Sujargarh | 16.06 | 41.60 | 1,915 | 739 | 15,300 | 15,461 | 30,761 |
| 11 | Ratannagar | 14.76 | 38.23 | 296 | 114 | 2,086 | 2,277 | 4,363 |

The variation in urban population of the district since 1901 is as follows:

| Year | Urban population | Variation | | Percentage decade variation |
|------|------------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1901 | 57,096 | — | — | — |
| 1911 | 63,732 | + | 6,636 | 11.62 |
| 1921 | 86,794 | + | 23,062 | 36.19 |
| 1931 | 1,12,258 | + | 25,464 | 29.34 |
| 1941 | 1,54,268 | + | 42,010 | 37.42 |
| 1951 | 1,85,102 | + | 30,834 | 19.99 |
| 1961 | 2,08,043 | + | 22,941 | 12.39 |

Language

According to the Census of 1961, the chief language in the district is Marwarī, a dialect of Rajasthani, which originated from the Nagor *Apabhraṃsha* which in its turn was a corrupt form of the *Prakrit*. According to Dr Grierson's classification it has branched off from the Indo-Aryan forms of languages. Marwarī is spoken by 77.9 per cent of the total population of the district. The mother tongue of 14.7 per cent of the population is Rajasthani and that of 4.4 per cent *Khariboli*. Hindi and Urdu are spoken by 0.9 and 1.4 per cent and the rest or 0.7 per cent of the total population speak various other languages.

Population according to languages is given in Appendix I.

Bilingualism

Bilingualism is common among the people of the district. Out of the total of 6,59,011 persons, 11,686 were found to be speaking beside their mother tongue more than one language. The number of bilingualists is as follows: English 8,073; Hindi 1,352, Urdu 1,144, Bengali 5,225, Sanskrit 260, Arabic 165, Punjabi 79, Assamese 27, Sindhi 25, Nepali 20, Gujarati eight, Persian four and Marathi and Tamil two each.

Hindi is widely understood both among the educated and uneducated. In Government offices and courts both Hindi and English are used. In schools, Hindi is the medium of instruction.

Religious and Social Groups

The majority of the population consists of Hindus who formed 88.83 per cent of the total population and numbered 5,85,408 (3,02,903 males and 2,82,505 females) according to the Census of 1961. Muslims accounted for 8.03 per cent of the population and numbered 52,923 (27,387 males and 25,536 females). Jains were 20,294 (9,529 males and 10,765 females) and formed 3.08 per cent of the total population. The rest of the population consists of 275 Sikhs (161 males and 114 females), 96 Christians (58 males and 38 females), one Buddhist and 14 others (9 males and five females), who did not state their religion. In 1951 and 1961, the population according to religion was as follows¹

| Region | Total population | | Percentage | |
|------------|------------------|----------|------------|--------|
| | 1951 | 1961 | 1951 | 1961 |
| Hindus | 4,58,301 | 5,85,408 | 87.585 | 88.831 |
| Muslims | 43,449 | 52,923 | 8.303 | 8.031 |
| Jains | 21,223 | 20,294 | 4.055 | 3.080 |
| Sikhs | 236 | 275 | 0.045 | 0.042 |
| Christians | 67 | 96 | 0.012 | 0.014 |
| Others | — | 15 | — | 0.002 |

Hindus

The principal sects of Hindus in the district are (i) Vaisnava (ii) Shaiva and (iii) Shakta. They are the worshippers of Vishnu, Shiva and Shakti respectively.

As elsewhere, the caste system among Hindus in this district is deeply rooted, but the four social divisions of the ancient times have been greatly modified. There are also signs of the class barriers breaking specially in the urban areas. The efforts to ameliorate the social & economic conditions of the backward and scheduled groups are bringing about a healthy change and broader outlook.

The important castes living in the district are Brahmans, Baniyas, Rajputs, Jats, Nayaks or Thoris, Meghwals and Bishnois.

The Brahmans

The Brahmans, whose hereditary occupation had been teaching religious service, are now mostly traders and agriculturists. Some perform priestly duties and others have adopted various other professions. Their different sub-castes have not been recorded at any Census, but the Pushkaranas and Paliwals are most numerous.

Marwaris or Baniyas

The Mahajans or Baniyas who are generally known as Marwaris outside Rajasthan, where they are well established in business and trade, are a trading class. They form the wealthy section of the population.

This caste has three important divisions. They are the Oswals, the Agrawals, and the Maheshwaris. There is yet one more section

known as Saraogi. The Agrawals trace their origin in the Hisar district of the Punjab. The Oswals hail from Osian in Jodhpur or Western Marwar. The Maheshwaris claim to be descendents of the Rajputs who took to commerce and became Banias. The Maheshwaris came to Bikaner after Bika founded the State of Bikaner. The Agrawals and Saraogis immigrated to the Bikaner State during the early period of the muslim invasions to save themselves from the dangers of life and property in the Punjab and the plains of the Ganges.

The Oswals are said to be the descendents of Rajputs of various clans converted to Jainism in the second century, and they take their name from the town of Osi or Osian, the ruins of which are to be seen thirty miles north of Jodhpur city. Their chief sects are Mohnet, Bhandari, Singhi, Lodha and Mohta (of whom the Bhandsalis were originally Bhati Rajputs and are regarded as the Chaudharis or Headmen of the Oswals).

Like Oswals, the Maheshwaris claim to be originally Rajputs, chiefly Chauhans, Parihars and Solankis. The name is derived from Mahadeo or Mahesh the diety they worship. They comprise seventy two exogamous sections who abstain from the use of liquor and meat and do not use onions, garlic or carrots. By occupation they are traders, contractors and bankers, some having agencies in the remotest parts of India.

Saraogis are all Jains and comprise eighty four sections. The word 'Saraogi' is said to mean strict abhorrence of liquor, but etymologically it derived from 'Shravaka' which means a lay Jain worshipper. They are staunch vegetarians. They have no matrimonial relations with the Oswals, nor do they engage Brahmans to officiate at their weddings but are served by priests of their own caste. Further, they forbid the use of ivory bracelets by their women, bathe before breakfast, take their evening meal before sunset, burn no fuel without washing it and avoid use of lamps at night for fear of injuring insects.

The Agrawals trace their origin to Raja Agrasen of Agroha in the Punjab. The story runs that the Raja being keen to marry his seventeen sons to eighteen snake-daughters of Balak, had another son formed from the body of the eldest and thus brought about their marriages. Hence the Agrawals are divided into seventeen and a half clans, the half section eating but not marrying among the others. Another section, known as the Narnaul Singhis, forms the *Mutsaddi*

or official class. The rest are engaged in trade and are very enterprising, being found in almost all the cantonments and distant places and are called Marwaris

The Jats

Jats account for one-fourth to one-fifth of the entire population of the district and are mostly agriculturists. Their important clans are Godara, Puniya, Beniwal, Sohu, Kaswan and Bagri. They possess strong physique and are generally amiable. They oppose hunting animals. They are Vaishnavas, and invite brahmans to officiate at their ceremonies. Socially they are advanced & allow the widow-marriages.

The Rajputs

The Rajputs are traditional fighters and land lords. Before the integration of the States they were divided into two classes, (i) the aristocracy consisting of *Jagirdars*, and (ii) the peasantry. The abolition of *Jagirs* have affected them adversely. As a class they have an aversion for occupation other than that of arms or Government service.

The important Rajput clans living in the district are the Rathors and the Jadons. The important sub-clans of the Rathors are the Bikawats, the Bidawats and the Kandholots, named after Rao Bika, the founder of the erstwhile State of Bikaner, and his brother Bida and his uncle, Kandhal respectively. Their further sub-divisions are Ratansinghot, Srangot, Kishan Singhot, Kesho Dasot and Manohar Dasot.

The Nayaks or Thoris

The word Nayak, is a Sanskrit word, meaning a Commander. How it came to be associated with the community is still unknown. The Nayaks claim descent from the historic Surya Vanshi Rajputs in general and King Ajay Pal in particular. The claim has been recognized by some writers who hold that their ancestors held posts of responsibility in the services of the Rajput princes but due to frequent foreign invasions they took shelter in the remote places where they mixed up with primitive communities, imbibed their habits and customs and became their leaders or Nayaks. However, the theory is not unchallengeable.

The word 'Thori', used for the Nayaks, is used in a derogatory sense, amounting almost to abuse when used by the people of the

higher caste. They are treated as untouchables and are not allowed to build their huts adjacent to the houses of the high caste people. Their habitation are, therefore, located usually at a respectful distance from the main *abadi*.

During living memory, the Nayaks have been good syces or grooms or messengers. Their women-folk serve as mid-wives.

The Meghwals

The Meghwals claim their descent from a legendary Brahman saint, Megh. The story goes that there were four brothers who decided that the youngest of them should remove the dead body of a cow that had died in their yard. Accordingly, he removed the carcass to the jungle. On his return he was prohibited from rejoining them and was forced to work as a Chamar. Another story is that a Raja had two daughters—Chamu and Bhamu, each of whom had a son. One day an elephant died in the courtyard of the palace. Chamu's son who possessed Herculean strength dragged the heavy carcass and buried it. Thereupon, he was declared an outcaste and forced to take up the profession of a Chamar. These legends, however, are not convincing.

The Meghwals are splitted into a number of exogamous *gotras*, such as Jatra, Chandra, Bora, Sullaria, Movanpuria, Sungaria, Kansotia, Dameria, Goyal, Panwar, Khatania, Gander Balaicha, Lotna, Bhati, Jalan, Tadia, Kanteria, Barupal, Chabaria etc totalling more than a hundred.

The Meghwals worship Ramdeoji and Gogaji, both Rajput saints and their family Goddess is Khetla Mata.

The Meghwals celebrate Baiyaji-kā-Bhojan, a feast held during the seventh month of the first pregnancy of a girl, and the Surya Pujan ceremony (worship of Sun-god) a month after the delivery. The parties concerned exchange coconuts, jaggery, opium etc. at betrothal ceremony and engage Garuda Brahmans to officiate at the marriage ceremony. They can have more than one wife but cannot marry two real sisters and a widower is not permitted to marry the sister of his deceased wife. Remarriages of widows is prevalent. They bury their dead.

The Bishnois

They are found in a large number in the district. They were originally Jats, and have derived their present name from their

creed of twenty nine (bis+nau) tenets which they adopted at the instance of the Panwar Rajput ascetic named Jambha towards the end of fifteenth century. In Jambha's time, Mohammedans who were in power at Nagaur did not approve of the principles of this new religion, unless Islamic doctrines were included in it. He is said to have added a few tenets¹ to accommodate the Muslims. The inclusion of some Islamic customs is supported by the enquiries made in the Punjab and the Bikaner State and recorded in the Punjab Census Report of 1891 and the Bikaner Census Report of 1931. But it is, disputed by the Bishnois.

The Bishnois have discarded the adopted customs. They form a distinct endogamous group comprising many exogamous sections. They are vegetarians, and teetotallers. Unlike other Hindus, they have discarded the scalp-lock and bury their dead, sometimes in a sitting posture like the Sanyasis. They marry among their own community and freely enter into marital relations with different sub-sects. They are sturdy people and their occupation is agriculture.

The Muslims

The majority of muslims in the district being converts from Hindus, still observe, contrary to Islamic doctrines, caste distinctions.² Muslims of foreign stock include Saiyads, Pathans, Mughals and Sheikhs. The converts are mostly Sunnis and the important castes among them are . 1 Jaunjogbu, 2 Teli, 3 Kasai, 4 Rangad, 5 Sheikh, 6 Miras, 7 Bhisti, 8 Chhippa, 9 Dholi, 10 Fakir, 11 Mali, 12 Rangrez, 13 Dhobi, 14 Jat, 15 Khalai, 16 Khoja, 17 Kumbhar, 18 Kunjra, 19 Lohar, 20 Mulla, 21. Nai and 22 Sipahi.

The Jains

Numerically insignificant the Jains by virtue of their commercial position hold important position in the socio-economic life in the district. The prominent groups of the community are Oswals and the Saraogis, who appear to be Hindus in their behaviour, but they are

1 The following tenets were added (a) All Bishnois to be buried after death, (b) Name of Vishnu when called to be followed by the words Allah Bismillah, (c) Phera or circumambulation of the fire at marriage ceremony to be omitted, and scriptures both Hindu and Muslim to be read by the priest during the ceremony (d) Scalp-lock to be shaved, and (e) the beard should not have a dividing line.

2 Biswas, C. R., *Land of Marwaris*, p. 129.

distinguished by their emphasis on *Ahimsa*, the worship of Tirthankaras and the avoidance of priestly class. They are divided into two sects the Swatambers, and the Digambers. The Swatambers are further divided into Bais Sampradayas, Tera Panthis and Mandir Margis.

Sikhs

They follow the teachings of Guru Nanak. Their religious book is *Granth Sahib*. They put on the five signs—*Kara* (iron bangle), *Kachha* (under-wear), *Kangha* (comb), *Katar* (dagger), and *Kesh* (hair) of the head and beard. Most of them are Jats.

Christians

The small Christian community consists of 96 persons. They are either Methodists, Roman Catholics or Presbyterians.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

HINDUS—Generally speaking, the Hindus do not belong to any particular religious sect. Hinduism does not impose on its followers any religious dogma. The Hindus of the district are mostly followers of the Sanatan Dharma (the orthodox form of the Hindu religion). They believe in the *Avatars* of Vishnu and generally worship Ram, Krishan, Shiv, Durga, and other deities of the Hindu pantheon. The principal religious books read and recited are—the Ramayana, the Bhagawatgita and the Bhagavat Purana. Among the Hindus of the district the religious practices differ from caste to caste and sometimes even from family to family, but these variations do not affect the general pattern of religious life or the celebration of common festivals, or the observance of certain rites and practices.

Besides, the people worship a number of other deities, notably Bhaironji, Hanumanji, Shitla (Goddess of small pox), Pabuji, Ramdeoji, Gogaji, Hinglaj Mata, Mawrian, the goddess etc. They also worship plants and trees like *Tulsi*, *Peepal* or *Khejra* etc. They believe in the evil influence of spirits, and offer sacrifices to propitiate or to exercise them. There is general belief specially in the rural areas, in the efficacy charms to bury, imprison or ward off evil spirits.

MUSLIMS—The Muslims are monotheists and their holy book is the Quran. Their prophet was Muhammad to whom the religion of Islam was revealed. The Muslims believe in angels, heaven and hell as also in evil and good spirits. The Muslims are divided into two sects—the Shias and the Sunnis. The Shias believe that Hazrat Ali, a

son-in-law and a favourite of the Prophet, should have succeeded him as the head of the Islam, whereas the Sunnis maintain that the succession of Abu Bakar, Umar and Usman was rightful. The Shias celebrate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hussain from the first to the tenth day of Muharram.

The Muslims generally observe five religious duties which include the recitation of the *Kal'na* (an expression of faith in God and the Prophet Muhammad), the saying of *Namaz* (prayers) five times a day individually or collectively preferably in the mosque; *roza* (fasting in the month of Ramzan), *Hajj* (or pilgrimage to Mecca) and *Zakat* (contribution in cash or kind for charitable purposes). But the Muslims in the district are mostly Hindu converts and cling to their old beliefs. They invite Muslim sorcerers who either employ spells or recommend amulets to ward off the effects of evil eye and drive away diseases.

Social Life

The joint family system is the form of the Hindu society but there is now a clear tendency towards disintegration.

Inheritance

The ordinary law of primogeniture was applied to *jagirdars* irrespective of whether a feudal lord was a Hindu or a Muslim. In case of others, succession took place according to the traditional laws of each community or religion. The system in vogue in the district was patrilineal. The recent legislation regulating the law of inheritance or succession relating to Hindus (including Jains and Sikhs) conferring rights of inheritance on the daughter, in the property of the deceased father, has so far, had no effect in the rural areas, and the customary law is still in force. The people are of course, aware of it but the majority does not favour this idea. Formerly, a Hindu woman had no right to inherit any property of her husband but she enjoyed absolute right to *Stri Dhan* or woman's property which consisted of ornaments or valuable presents given to her by her father, husband and other relatives. The Hindu Inheritance and Succession Act, 1956, now admits the widow as a full sharer with sons and daughters of the deceased to his property and she can now possess, alienate or dispose of her share of the property. Nevertheless, the orthodox people do not like this legislative change and daughters do not have recourse to law to enforce their rights.

Adoption

The Mitakshara Law of Adoption, as interpreted by the Banaras School of Customary Law of Hindus, is in vogue in this district. Whenever a Hindu has no male issue, he adopts one of the male children of his relatives, preferably a brother's son. The adopted son, enjoys all legal rights and privileges of the adoptive father and at the same time, loses all claims to inheritance and other privileges in the family of his natural father. A legitimate son born subsequent to an adoption, takes precedence over the adopted one who is treated as a younger son. Formerly, a widow had no right to adopt except with the previous explicit consent of her husband or that of his agnates and collaterals. Under the provision of the Hindu Law of Inheritance and Succession Act 1956 now a widow can adopt a son or even a girl, irrespective of the age of the adopter and the adopted. However, the old conventions still persist among the orthodox. The Jains observe similar customs. Muslims and others follow the traditions of their respective community.

Polygamy

Polygamy was a tradition among certain classes of Hindus, who could have as many wives as they desired. In case of the Muslims the number was restricted to four by the Shariat. Hypergamous marriages were a pride of the feudal aristocracy but the practice has now completely disappeared. Polygamy has been made punishable by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. This law provides that neither party should have a spouse living at the time of marriage. Although Muslims are still free to be polygamous, yet due to economic conditions they rarely have more than one wife. In case of Government servants the State has prohibited the marrying of a second wife, without the sanction of the Government even in case of its Muslim employees. The term 'Hindus' includes the Sikhs and the Jains for the purpose of the Hindu Marriage Act. Christians are monogamous.

Restriction of Marriage

Amongst the Hindus, there were certain restrictions on marriages, the most common being that no marriage could take place between families of the same *gotra* or where the *gotra* tallies either on paternal side upto six degrees of male line and on the maternal side four degrees. The Hindu Marriage Act has now removed the restrictions as far as marriages among families of the same *gotra* are concerned, but marriages among *sapindas* are still totally prohibited by

law as well as custom. The caste is essentially an endogamous unit and no man is allowed to marry a woman not of his own caste which in practice, means the sub-caste. Inter-caste marriages are not common, but now, they are gradually taking place though not on a large scale. Inter-caste marriages specially among the educated persons are on an increase which though permissible by law, are not popular.

To a Hindu, the object of marriage is to beget a son to perform the last rites of his deceased parents, without which it is believed there is no salvation. Among Hindus the sons are generally married by seniority and daughters before they attain puberty. Jains are no exception to this above practice. Muslims too follow it as they are mostly converts from Hinduism and cling to old beliefs and practices. The marriage is universal in the district as in the rest of India. Love marriages are few. Marriages are still arranged by parents.

Marital Status

According to the 1951 Census, out of every 1000 males 522 were married, 415 were unmarried and 63 were widowed or divorced and amongst every 1000 females 564 were married, 327 unmarried and 109 were widows or divorced. In 1961, according to Census figures, amongst 1000 males 415 were married 533 unmarried and 32 were widowers and divorced and the corresponding figures for females were 425, 484 and 91. The total number of divorced or separated males and females in the district was 141 and 102 which indicates that divorce is unusual and rare and the striking feature is that the number of widows (29,007) is comparatively much higher than that of widowers (10,633) in the district, which implies that they usually remarry. The number of married women totalling 1,54,092 in the district, as against 1,41,019 married males reveals the existence of polygamy.

Early child marriages were common in the erstwhile State of Bikaner comprising the districts of Bikaner, Churu and Ganganagar. But an attempt was made in 1928 to prevent the practice by enacting the Bikaner Hindu Marriage Act. By it the marriage of a boy under 16 years and a girl under 11 years, was made punishable. After the formation of Rajasthan the provisions of the Sarda Act prohibiting the marriage of a boy below 12 years and a girl below 15 were made applicable to the district. These measures have had their effect to a large extent but the evil has not been eradicated. Educated and

progressive people have almost discarded the child marriage but orthodox still cling to it. In 1951, according to Census figures, amongst girls and boys aged 14 or less, 59 and 19 per 1000 respectively were married. In 1961 the corresponding figures for boys and girls in the district were 2,603 (four per cent) and 9,523 (14.4 per cent) respectively. It shows that the practice is gradually on the wane.

Marriage Customs

The marriage rituals at least, among the higher castes, are the same as elsewhere in the State with slight variations. Marriages still continue to be arranged by the parents of the boys and girls. The main part of the negotiations is to verify whether the family proposing the marriage of a girl is eligible, that is, comes within the acceptable circle of the bridegroom's family. The social status, and general financial condition are also considered. The considerations in selecting a boy have undergone some changes. His education, economic status and future prospects also are given due weight. Presents in cash and kind are made to the prospective bridegroom and his guardian at the time of the settlement of the marriage. This ceremony is called *Sagai*. It is followed by *tilak* or *tika* which is held at the house of the bridegroom. The bride's father sends presents both in cash and kind, cash, silver utensils, clothes, sweetmeats and fruits, according to his status and capacity. Then the *lagan* ceremony follows in which the time fixed for the marriage is intimated by the bride's father. The bridegroom then goes with his party, called *barat*, to the bride's house on the date fixed for the marriage. There is a ceremonial reception of the bridegroom and his party. This is followed at the fixed time by *Kanyadan* and the actual marriage ceremony variously known as *Hath Leva* or *Bhanwar* or *Saptadi* or *Pheja*. Besides the bride's parents, members of their family, relatives and friends offer the *kunyadan*. On this occasion they offer her presents of ornaments or cash or other articles. The last ceremony is that of *bida* or farewell of the bride. An interesting custom among the Pushkarana community in the district is that mass marriages take place after every four years. If some one among the pushkaranas fails to perform the ceremony on that date, he has to wait for another four years. However, exception is allowed when the marriage is celebrated in *Ikalsava*.

Marriage ceremonies among the Muslims are much simpler as compared to those of the Hindus. The Shias, Sunnis and the Rajput converts, perform the *Nikah* (marriage ceremony) in different

manners but the essential Islamic rites are common. The Muslim marriage is a contract and the *mehr* is always fixed before ceremony, the amount of *mehr* varying according to the status of the contracting parties. The marriages are usually settled by the parents of the bridegroom, rather than those of the bride. Muslims also follow the ceremonies of *magni* or betrothal and taking *barat* to the bride's house. Before the actual marriage ceremony is solemnized consent of both bride and bridegroom is obtained in the presence of witnesses. Legally the bride's consent is obtained through *vakils* because of *pardah* system and feminine modesty. As soon as the consent of the parties to the marriage is communicated to each other and announced and the *mehr* fixed, the *Qazi* recites the *Khutba* and the marriage is solemnized. Friends, relatives and other persons who attend the marriage, are then entertained and dates and candy are distributed. The bridegroom is then introduced to the relatives and the parting ceremony or *ruksat* takes place. Marriages among cousins are permitted and even considered desirable. But marriage between uncle and niece or brother and sister are not permissible.

Dowry

The system of dowry is prevalent specially among high caste Hindus, though in one form or the other, it exists in nearly all the castes. Among the poor Brahmans the father of the girl takes money from the boy's side but not amongst the rich. Among the Rajputs and the Banias it is the girl's father who gives dowry. But among Jats and other communities the father of the boy has to give cash to the father of the girl. In some cases a definite amount to be given by the bride's father is negotiated before the marriage is settled. The amount so settled is paid either at the time of settlement of the marriage, or that of betrothal, or a part is given at the betrothal and the balance at the time of the various ceremonies which precede the actual marriage. However, it is usual to give ornaments, clothes, furniture and household goods to the bride. The dowry as generally understood, refers to the negotiated cash payment and not to the presents which are usually given to the bridegroom by the father of the bride and her other relatives. Effects of the legislative measures banning dowry are yet not clearly discernible.

Divorce

The Christians have their own law, the Indian Divorce Act, for marriages registered under the Christian Marriage Act. The Muslim

law allows divorce, but it is more favourable to husband than to the wife. Among the Scheduled Castes and some other communities of the Hindus, divorce or dissolution of the marriage, is permissible and the divorced party can remarry. Among the high class Hindus marriage was a sacrament and divorce was not allowed but by the passing of the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, divorce has been made legal under certain circumstances through a law court.

Widow Remarriages

The widow remarriage among the high class Hindus, is not common, as among the Backward and Scheduled Castes. Widow remarriage is permitted by Muslim law but in practice, it is not in vogue. In the rural area a Jat widow may marry her husband's younger brother or some one else and it is called *Choori Pahnana* in the former case, and *Nata* or *Kareva* in the latter. Among Bishnois too, a widow may remarry her husband's younger brother if she so desires. Elder brother of the deceased husband cannot marry his younger brother's wife. Widow remarriage is performed without any pomp and show, the would-be husband simply presents a new suit of clothes and a set of bangles as symbol of wedded life and takes her to his home on a Saturday night after dinning at her parents' house. If a person remarries a married woman, he has to pay compensation to her former husband. It is locally called *Jhagda* and is prevalent among those who permit widow remarriage.

Position of Women

Women in the district have been dependent on men from time immemorial. Among Rajputs and Muslims, they observed *purdah*. The practice is now dying out on account of the impact of modern civilization. With the increasing educational facilities for girls, the younger generation has begun to play an important role in all the spheres of life. Women belonging to upper and middle classes are not generally economically independent, and only a few of them are self-supporting. On the contrary the working class women work with their men, and enjoy greater liberty than their counter-parts in the upper strata.

Prostitution

The suppression of Immoral Traffic, Act introduced in 1956, provides for the suppression of brothels and trafficking in women and the Red light area have disappeared.

Drinking

People generally abstain from liquor. It was common among the Rajputs and some of the working classes especially those who had to do hard work. It is now noticed that the younger generation of Rajputs is giving it up. It was a custom among the Rajputs to serve opium in small quantity on certain happy occasions and festivals but now it has practically dwindled down. Besides, opium is now sold on ration cards supplied to addicts on medical grounds.

Home Life

HOUSEHOLDS—The distribution of houses according to 1951 and 1961 Censuses was as follows

| S No | Administrative Unit | Total number of houses | |
|------|----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | 1951 | 1961 |
| 1 | Churu District Total | 79,339 | 1,30,058 |
| 2 | Churu District Rural | 53,521 | 81,929 |
| 3 | Churu District Urban | 25,818 | 48,129 |

According to the sample survey of the 1951 Census, the sizes of households show considerable variation ranging from one member to even more than ten members. In this district 50.7 per cent of households in the rural areas and 40.9 per cent in the urban areas were of medium size, consisting of four to six members. Households of very large size (having ten members or more) formed 18.2 per cent in urban areas and 5.1 per cent in the rural areas while the small households accounted for 18.2 per cent in urban areas and 33.2 per cent in the rural areas.

According to the Census of 1961¹, households with no regular rooms were 0.1 per cent with one room 20.4 per cent, with two 29.1, with three 21.2, with four 12.7 and with five or more rooms were 16.5 per cent and people living in them formed 1, 14.6, 26.2, 22.2, 14.6 and 22.3 per cent of the total population. Accommodation in different categories of households in rural and urban areas was as follows.

| | | | No of regular room | One room | Two rooms | Three rooms | Four rooms | Five or more rooms |
|---|--------------|-------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Households % | Rural | 0.1 | 18.2 | 29.4 | 22.7 | 13.3 | 15.7 |
| | | Urban | 0.1 | 23.7 | 28.5 | 17.9 | 11.6 | 18.2 |
| 2 | Population % | Rural | 0.1 | 13.3 | 26.0 | 23.8 | 15.3 | 21.5 |
| | | Urban | 0.1 | 17.3 | 26.6 | 18.8 | 13.2 | 24.1 |

1 Based on 20% Sample survey.

Furniture

Except for string cots, there is practically no furniture in average village homes. Sometimes in the mud huts, there are shelves built in the walls for the storage of articles and an alcove for housing a deity. However, women decorate the houses by painting the walls and doors. *Madhna* or the indigenous art of household painting is skilfully employed with a chalk solution and, on festivals, with *gulal*, *roh* or flour. In towns, chairs and tables have made their appearance in middle class families. The well-to-do among them have richer furniture. The rich persons maintain a drawing/sitting room with carpets, sofa sets, decorated with pieces of art. However, in the older families, the practice of having a sitting room furnished with floor spreads and pillows is still in vogue, but it is yielding place to modern style of furnishing.

Dwellings

The common type of dwellings in the villages are circular huts with walls made either of mud or bamboo plastered with mud and covered by a thatched roof. In a typical household there are three or four such huts which serve as living rooms, a separate structure known as *Kotha* which is meant for storing the grain, a kitchen and a cattle shed that can, in time of need, be converted into a guest-house. A circular hut is locally termed as *Jhonpra* and the gables which are closed on three sides as *paidwa*. People put enclosures of thorny hedges round their dwellings as a protection against the sand drifts and hot winds. The houses of businessmen and the Thakurs are usually built of sandstone and mortar.

In the towns, houses vary from the masonry *havelis*—the buildings of the well-to-do, to the mud dwellings of the fairly comfortable type and huts of the poor. The latter, which are made of grass, twigs, and roots of the *phog* bush, are mostly circular and look like small ricks. In bigger towns modern style bungalows and flats are being constructed now-a-days.

Dress

Males in the rural areas usually wear *dhoti*, *angarkha* and head-gear. The *dhoti* which covers the lower body, is generally smaller than the standard *dhoti*. It is a sheet of local manufacture measuring about nine metres by one metre. The upper part of the body is covered by a *bandia*, *angarkha* or in some parts of the district by *banar*. It is



A village woman and her hut

like a short coat tightly fitting the body and fastened with taper, over the chest or on the left side. The headgear is known as *Potta*, which is modified variety of the Rajput *Safa* (turban).

The well-to-do classes including Rajputs substitute *dhoti* by a *churidar pyjama* and *angarkha* by a *kurta*, which is collarless and cuffless shirt. Over the *kurta*, however, a buttoned up long coat touching the knees is invariably put on. The turban is either called by its universal appellation *pag* or its variation *pagi* or *peca*. The *peca* turban is folded with a strip of fine cloth, one-fourth metre in width and 17 to 23 metres in length which is known as *moliya* in local dialect. Five coloured turban is the coveted type known as *panchranga peca* or *panchrangi pagi*. Marwaris use a ready-made turban or *pagi* which is put on like a cap. Many a time, a kerchief, locally known as *rumal* is tied round the turban or the *pagi* and sometimes round the neck.

The common dress for ladies, consists of a coloured skirt or petticoat, a tight bodice and a sheet of veil over the head and around the body. For the lower part of the body the *ghagra* or *Lahanga* (skirt) with vertical pleats worn below the navel and reaching ankles is almost universal. Formerly it was made of triangular pieces and known as *kalidara* (each piece having the shape of the bud of a flower). All such pieces, sewn together, forms *ghagra* which is wider at the base and tapering towards the waist and is held by a string round the waist. A *ghagra* made of rectangular pieces has symbolic pleat with flaring width near the ankles and tight waist on the upper part. It lends grace to the wearer and is praised as *ghera ghumalo* in the folk songs of Rajasthan. High class ladies sometimes wear a narrow piece of cloth different in colour and ornamentation from the *ghagra* and suspended centrally on the front side. It is called *Pheta* and indicates that the bearer is a lady whose husband is alive. The upper part of the body is covered with a bodice called *kachali* or *kacavo*. Folk-songs refer to tight-fitting bodice artistically embroidered.

There is then the scarf popularly known as *odhani* which wraps the body. It is usually wider than the normal *sari* as it covers the entire body from head to feet. Its one end is tucked at the navel or the waist and the remaining portion spread to the left, covering the back and head. The other end dangling from over the head is either brought under the right arm-pit or tucked into the bodice.

Female dress has, however, changed with the times. More and more women are now taking to *sari*. *Kachali* has been replaced by blouse-type *choli*.

People in towns are now adapting western style of dress, particularly the educated classes.

Muslim males wear round turban, an *ajarak* a loose cloth on the shoulder which is spread on the ground during *namaz* and a *tahmad* usually printed and worn loosely round the waist. They wear trousers and not *dhotis* and invariably use an *achakan* or long coat at social functions.

The Muslim women wear *pyjama*, a long *kurta*, usually half-sleeved, an *odhni* and when going out of doors, a *jhagga* which resembles a flowing gown, gathered up at the waist in innumerable tucks but is put on like a coat, as it is open in front and has close fitting sleeves. The *burqua* is also used in towns and villages.

Ornaments

Men generally do not use ornaments except the rich who put on gold necklace and finger rings. Some however, wear rings of gold or silver in their ears and silver anklets. Women, of course are rather fond of ornaments, and those belonging to well-to-do classes, mostly use gold ornaments, while those of the poorer sections and the rural area, generally wear silver ornaments. The most common ornaments for women is the *borla* made of gold or silver studded with glass-heads. *Khuraba*, *jhumars* and *damni* are worn in ears. The ornaments of nose are *kanta*, *phoolraj*, *nath* and *long*, and those of the neck are *hashi*, *kanthi*, *tussi*, *timana* and *dora*. On the hands are worn *choora* with or without gold *pattis*, *chiori*, *bajuband* and *dantra*. Round the waist is worn a chain called *kanakti* and on the ankles and feet are worn *kadla*, *nevri* and *payal*. It may be noted that the *borla*, *long*, *choora* and *anklets* are worn as marks of married life. During princely rule gold anklets were worn only by those on whom their ruler had conferred the honour.

In the rural areas, some people decorate tattoo themselves for decoration. Followers of Ramdeoji mostly have tattoo marks representing the feet of Ramdeoji, known as *Ramdeoji-ka-paglia* on their arms. Sometimes a tattoo mark representing the figure of a peacock or a flower pot can also be noticed. Tattooing is done with the help

of instruments by professional tattooers, who do not belong to any particular class or community. At times, needle-sellers also perform the job

While modernised and well-to-do ladies use a variety of cosmetics, the orthodox and village women-folk paint *mehandi* (Myrtle paste) to decorate their hands and feet. Men in the rural areas wear moustaches. Among the Bishnois moustaches are parted at the centre and the beard is trimmed. Meghwals and others, have plain moustaches.

Food

The staple food of the people is *bajra*. Other food-grains used are wheat, barley, gram, *jwar* and occasionally rice. Wheat is used by the rich people generally in the towns and by the poor and the rural community on festivals. The main pulse is *moth* though *moong* and gram are also eaten. The common vegetables are *gwar-ki-phali*, *kachri*, *sangri*, *tindsi*, onions and radishes. The *gwar-ki-phali* is the whole pod of *gawar* and is eaten with thick *bajra* bread called *sogra*, *kachri*, the dried unripe *kakri* or cucumber is also popular, *sangri* is the pod of *khejra*. Its leaves are also eaten. *Tindsi* when dried is relished with *bajra* bread. The pods of the *kair* and *phlog* are sometimes used as condiments, and the use of chillies is general. Water-melon is the only fruit available to the people in the rural area and is eaten fresh.

The most common preparation is the *rabdi* (porridge) or flour cooked in diluted butter milk generally in the evening. Other dishes are *khichra* that is, husked *bajra* mixed with *moth* in the proportion of four to one with a little *ghee* added to it.

The food served on special occasions like marriages, deaths, births and festivals, consists of *dal-ka-sira* and *halwa* (pudding) made of *moong-ki-dal*, *atta-ka-sira* and *churma* made of *bajra-ki-roti*, mixed with *gur* and *ghee*. *Khichra* is speciality of *Akha Teej*. *Kh. er* and other sweet dishes are prepared during *shradhs* and on festivals.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Fairs and Festivals

The principal Hindu festivals observed here are the same as elsewhere in the State. Holi is observed in Phalgun (February-March), Gangor (Sacred to Gauri or Parvati) in Chaitra (March-April), Akha

Teej in Vaisakh (April-May), Raksha-Bandhan (when sisters tie charms round the wrists of their brothers) in Srawan (July-August), Dashara in Asoj (September-October), and Diwali in Kartik (October-November). The other festivals are Basant Panchami, the festival of spring and Navaratra in Chaitra (March-April) when goddess Durga is worshipped for nine days. New year begins on the 1st day of Chaitra Sudi 1. These festivals are celebrated in much the same manner as elsewhere. Akha Teej is celebrated with gay abandon. It is popular among the youngsters as the kite flying day.

The main Muslim festivals in this district are the same as in other parts of Rajasthan, viz., Muharram, celebrated in the memory of Hazrat Imam Husan, Idul-Fitar, Idul Zuhul, in commemoration of Hazrat Ibrahim, Shab-i-barat a counterpart of the Hindu *Shradhpaksh* when the Muslims offer obeisance to their deceased forefathers and distribute food among the poor, and Bara Wafat the 12th day of Rabi-ul-auval is celebrated as the birthday of the prophet Mohammad Saheb. Ramzan is the month of the fast and staunch Muslims keep fast for all the 30 days in the month for the purification of the souls and control of emotions.

The Jains celebrate the festivals of Mahavir Jayanti in Baishakh (April-May) and *Paryushan* terminating of Sammatsari, the fifth day of the dark half of Bhadra (August-September).

The main festivals of the Sikhs are Vaisakhi, the first day of Vaisakh, Nanak Jayanti and Guru Govind Singh's Birthday.

The Christians celebrate the X-mas and new year day on 25th December and first January.

Fairs

The following are the main socio-religious fairs held in the district.¹

GOGAJI FAIRS—Fairs are held at Dadreva and Lunch, on Bhadon Sudi 9 (August-September) at the temples of Gogaji wherein homage is paid to Gogaji, the celebrated Chauhan Rajput, who sacrificed his life in defending the country against the incursions of the army of the crescent under Mahmud of Ghazni.

1 The list of local fairs held in the district is given in *District Census Hand Book, 1961*, Churu district, Census of India, pp 289-290

RAMDEOJI FAIRS—Fairs at Dungargarh, Sahwa, Taranagar, Ramdevara, Tharwa, Rajgarh and Phogawas are held every year for ten days from Bhadon Sudī 2 to Bhadon Sudī 11 (August-September) to worship the image of Ramdeoji, a Rajput of Tanwar clan. He is hailed as an incarnation of Lord Krishna in Marwar. He is revered by all Hindu communities in the desert area of Rajasthan and is worshipped by the Scheduled Castes, especially the Bhanbis, the Megh-wals, the Chamars. Muslims also pay obeisance to him and address him as Ram Shah Pir.

The other important fairs are those held at Punrasar on Bhadon Sudī 15 (August-September) and Salasar on Asoj Sudī 15 (September-October) to pay homage to Hanumanji, Teej and Gangore fairs at Ratangarh on the third day of the bright half of the months of Srawan (July-August) and Chaitra (March-April) respectively.

Dance

Dancing has always been a popular pastime among women. In this district several kinds of dance are popular of which the following are famous:

GHUMER—A group of women putting on colourful skirts dance moving circularly and striking clap sticks artistically. The dance is performed on the *Navaratra* and the *Gangor* day. This dance is extremely rhythmic and charming.

JHUMER—This is a group dance of women.

DHOLA MARU—In this dance the romantic love episode of *Dhola* the lover, and *Maru* the beloved is enacted to the accompaniment of songs and drums.

DANDIYA-RAS NRITYA—It is a popular circular dance by a group of men holding long sticks. The drummer takes his position in the centre of the circle hanging the drum round his neck. He creates the rhythm and leads the party. The dance begins with slow shuffling steps, but as the drum is beaten faster, the steps grow swifter. The dancer goes on round and round, arms waving, feet moving in step and in between the dance there is the exclamation of 'Ho, Ho', to heighten the emotional tempo. This dance expresses the feeling of joy and satisfaction at the conclusion of one season, of the successful life of toil by the sons of the soil and is specially performed on the occasion of the Holi festival when the spring season starts.

Music

The local music consists of *bhajans*, *kirtans*, heroic songs by professional bards, and music by *Dholans*. The local music is still very popular, the tune is called *Mand*.

Folk-Lore

It has always been a tradition for the folk-lore singers to assemble at the time of fairs and festivals to earn their livelihood by the performance of traditional songs. *Dholis* and *Dooms* are the professionals in folk-lore. The important folk-lore are Amar Singh and Hira Mehri.

Songs

There are varieties of songs suitable for various ceremonies, festivals and seasons. Songs are the pastime of women. They break the monotony of life by providing healthy diversion and entertainment.

AMUSEMENTS

Sports and Games

In the rural areas *kabaddi*, wrestling, *gilli-danda*, *mardara* and *ankh michoni* are popular games. The main indoor games of the villages are *chauper* and *charbhar*.

The principal games played in the urban areas are foot-ball, volley-ball, hockey and tennis. The indoor games are chess, *chauper*, cards and caroms.

Other Recreation

Ram Lila, Ras Lila, *bhajan*, *kirtan*, *kathas* of Ramayana and Mahabharat and *kutputli* (puppets) shows are the popular means of recreation in the rural area. During recent years radio sets have been provided by the Panchayat Samitis in some villages where people listen to news and songs with interest. Field publicity units sometimes arrange film shows.

Khayal-dance dramas

The themes are from the great Hindu epics, the Ramayan and the Mahabharat. The Bhawai caste which is said to have originated from the Jats and whose hereditary profession is dancing, act these dance-dramas. There are a number of ballets. Some of them are, humorous depicting the characters of *banias* and money lenders who are considered to be the exploiters. Due to pleasant humour the *banias* among the audience do not mind the satire and sarcasm.



Bhopa Bhopi—Traditional Minstrels

Most popular among them are *Bohara-Bohari*, *Surdas*, *Lodi-Badi*, *Dokari*, *Shankari*, *Bikaji*, etc.

Among some communities like Bhangis, Sansis, Meghwals etc women dance on marriages and other occasions which is more an expression of joyful exuberance than display of any skill in art.

Cinema

Cinema is becoming increasingly popular in urban areas. There are five cinemas in the district. Their total seating capacity is 1412.

Impact of Social and Economic Changes

The structure of the old social order has undergone a significant change. In former times, the set up was purely feudal and in the rural areas, revolved around the central figure of the land-lord, the king-pin of local life. The end of royalty, the introduction of agrarian reforms, the abolition of *Jagirdari*, the establishment of the district administration, the reorganisation of local self-government and the new system of the Panchayati Raj, have had a powerful impact on the social set-up. The land-lords have lost their privileged status in society and some of them have not fully adjusted themselves to the emerging social pattern but others are taking to various other professions. The landless workers are getting land to cultivate land in their own rights and the common man has acquired the right to exercise his vote. The growth of education and political consciousness among all classes of people has accelerated the process of the reorientation of the traditional society and caste system is losing its old rigidity. The old taboos regarding dress, food and types of dwellings, are disappearing and a new social order based on the principles of social freedom and equality, is gradually emerging, resulting in growing social mobility in respect of vocation and economic relations. Several castes and communities who were debarred from following professions other than the traditional ones are relating themselves to industrial, commercial and other pursuits. But the upheaval has caused the great sufferings to certain professions. The professional musicians and artists for instance, who depended for their livelihood on the patronage of the feudal aristocracy, have lost their employment. But a new social order is emerging in which the landless are getting lands, the poor are improving their economic conditions and the unemployed are finding jobs in the developmental undertakings. Man has acquired a new sense of dignity.

APPENDIX I

Population according to language in Churu District
(1961 Census)

| S No | Language | Total | Males | Females |
|------|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. | Assamese | 8 | 8 | — |
| 2. | Bengali | 111 | 74 | 37 |
| 3. | Bihari | 19 | 5 | 14 |
| 4. | Brijbhasha/Braj Bhakha | 15 | 12 | 3 |
| 5. | Deswali/Hariyani | 606 | 150 | 456 |
| 6. | English | 1 | 1 | — |
| 7. | Gujarati | 23 | 15 | 8 |
| 8. | Hindi | 6,019 | 3,093 | 2,926 |
| 9. | Jaipuri | 1 | 1 | — |
| 10. | Khari Boli | 29,258 | 17,202 | 12,056 |
| 11. | Malayalam | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 12. | Marathi | 12 | 6 | 6 |
| 13. | Marwari | 5,13,793 | 2,64,431 | 2,49,362 |
| 14. | Nepali | 33 | 30 | 3 |
| 15. | Oriya | 1 | 1 | — |
| 16. | Punjabi | 615 | 372 | 243 |
| 17. | Rajasthani | 97,398 | 47,970 | 49,428 |
| 18. | Shekhawati | 25 | — | 25 |
| 19. | Sindhi | 1,567 | 950 | 617 |
| 20. | Tamil | 1 | — | 1 |
| 21. | Urdu | 9,502 | 5,725 | 3,777 |
| 22. | All Languages | 6,59,011 | 3,40,048 | 3,18,963 |

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

In a district like Churu, which is purely a desert area, where soil is sandy, big sand dunes are common, rainfall is scanty, water level is extremely low, climate is extreme, and irrigation facilities are almost non-existent, there is very little scope for agriculture. However, about three-fourths of the population primarily depends on Agriculture.

LAND UTILISATION

The total geographical area of the district, according to village papers, is 1,687 thousand hectares. The cultivated area i.e. the net area sown during 1965-66 was 1,104 thousand hectares or 65.4 per cent of the total geographical area. The area sown more than once was 21 thousand hectares. The extent of fallow land¹ in 1965-66 was 328 thousand hectares or 19.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the district of which 191 thousand hectares was current fallow land and 137 thousand hectares was fallow other than current fallow. Among the other cultivated land excluding fallow land, culturable waste land covered 137 thousand hectares or 8.1 per cent and permanent pastures and other grazing land 27 thousand hectares or 1.6 per cent, while land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown was negligible. The area under forest was only one thousand hectares. Land put to non-agricultural uses occupied 89 thousand hectares or 5.3 per cent of the land not available for cultivation, while barren and unculturable land occupied one thousand hectares.

The pattern of land utilisation in Churu district during the last nine years has been given in Appendix I.

Continuous efforts have been made to bring more and more land under plough to increase the agricultural production of the district. During the first Five Year Plan, the notable land reforms were the

1. Fallow land includes current fallow i.e. land which is left fallow during the current year only and other fallow land i.e. lands which were taken up for cultivation but are temporarily out of cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years.

Jagir abolition and the passing of the Land Tenancy Act, 1955 of Rajasthan Measures like, intensive use of cultivation, reclamation of waste lands and double cropping etc were also adopted.

It is evident from the data given in Appendix I that the area of other uncultivated land including fallow land is, gradually declining while the net area sown and area sown more than once are constantly increasing

In the year 1957-58, the area of the other uncultivated land including fallow land which occupied 783 thousand hectares of land fell to 600 thousand hectares in the year 1960-61, and to 451 thousand hectares in the year 1964-65 The net area sown which was 919 thousand hectares in the year 1957-58 increased to 999 thousand hectares in 1960-61, and to 1,140 thousand hectares in the year 1965-66 Area sown more than once which was 6 thousand hectares in 1957-58 rose to 7 thousand hectares in the year 1960-61, and became 21 thousand hectares during the year 1965-66 The double cropped area is mostly found in Rajgarh and Taranagar tahsils where the soil is fertile and rainfall is also higher as compared to other tahsils of the district This type of cultivation is carried on by joint efforts of three or four families each contributing one bullock and a man, as it requires at least four bullocks and four workers to help in cultivation

Co-operative Movement

The Co-operative Movement made a beginning in the Bikaner State in 1920 when the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed and the Bikaner Co-operative Societies Act, 1920 was enacted A Land Mortgage Central Co-operative Bank was started in the year 1930, with a view to advance loans for improvement of land holdings The first co-operative society, viz, The Vegetable Growers Society in the district was registered on 4.4 1945. Thereafter the Co-operative Movement has mostly grown under various Five Year Plans

During the First Five Year Plan, the activities of the co-operative department were concentrated towards the integration of the movement During the Second Five Year Plan a number of agriculture credit, and non-credit societies were organised, which is evident from the data given below .

| Year | Items | Agricultural Credit Societies | Agricultural Non-Credit Societies | Primary Land Mort- gage Banks |
|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1956-57 | Societies | 12 | 16 | — |
| | Members | 287 | 230 | — |
| 1957-58 | Societies | 33 | 20 | — |
| | Members | 886 | 517 | — |
| 1958-59 | Societies | 107 | 21 | — |
| | Members | 2,987 | 439 | — |
| 1959-60 | Societies | 196 | 30 | 1 |
| | Members | 8,641 | 568 | 82 |
| 1960-61 | Societies | 234 | 33 | 1 |
| | Members | 11,304 | 604 | 623 |

Rules were framed in 1959 for the allotment of surplus land to the tenants' farming societies by the Government of Rajasthan in accordance with the scale given below :

| Society membership | Area allotted |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0-10 | 150 acres of irrigated land |
| 11-15 | 200 " " |
| 16-20 | 250 " " |
| 21-30 | 275 " " |

According to these rules, the family was treated a single member of the society and one acre of irrigated land was deemed equivalent to three acres of unirrigated land

The co-operative movement in agriculture continued to make headway during the Third Five Year Plan and the number of societies, their membership and loans advanced etc. as on 30 6 1966 were as follows

| Particulars | Unit | Agricultural Credit Societies | Farming Societies | Primary Land Mortgage Bank |
|-----------------|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Societies | No. | 305 | 2 | 1 |
| Membership | No. | 23,057 | 23 | 835 |
| Loans Advanced | Rs | 11,20,898 | — | 19,440 |
| Share Capital | Rs. | 5,95,326 | 670 | 11,390 |
| Working Capital | Rs | 29,19,601 | 670 | 79,268 |

Afforestation

The district, being a part of the Indian desert, is poor in forests, only a negligible area in Sujangarh tahsil having forest. The common tree is *prosopis spicigera* (Khejra) which provides a long pod called *Sangri*. This is used as fodder. In times of famine, these pods and also the leaves and even bark of Khejra are eaten by the poor. *Zizyphus juguba* (Ber tree) are also found near all the towns, and sometimes produce a good deal of fruit.

Phog (*calligonum polygonoides*), a low leafless shrub is very common and is most useful. As green, it is used as feed for cattle and its buds called *Larson* are eaten with buttermilk and condiments by the poor. Its twigs and roots support the sides of walls when they are dry. The *Saji* (*Salsola*) is an important plant from which soda is produced. Many people are engaged in manufacturing soda out of this tree.

For the preservation and management of forests, Bikaner Forest Act was passed in 1927. Forests were closed to camels and goats. Rules were published regarding collection and removal of forest produce, pasturing of cattle and protection from fire of the timber lying in the forests etc.

Looking to the utility of trees in checking the expansion of the desert and stabilizing sand dunes planting has been done by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute in the district at 5×5 m spacing to cover the area with vegetation. Trees and bushes which are particularly used for checking the growth of desert are *Prosopis juliflora* (Villayti babul), *calligonum polygonoides* (phog), *Acacia senegal* (Kumta) and *Crotalaria burhia ham* (senia). The bushes locally available comprises *Crotalaria burhia ham* (Senia), *Calligonum Polygonoides* (Phog), *Leptadema Pryrotechinca* (Kheem) and the important shrubs found here are *Rhynchosia minima* (munfoli) *Citrulus Colocynthis* (Thoomba). Among trees *Prosopis Spicigera* (Khejra) and *Prosopis Juliflora* (Villayti babul) are available here.

At present five grass reserves including two plantations are being maintained by State Forest Department.

IRRIGATION

There is not much scope for the development of irrigation in this district. Canal irrigation is not possible as there is no perennial

or semi-perennial river, flowing in or through the boundaries of the district. There is, of course, one small river called Katli which has its origin near Pithampur and Khandela from the middle range of Torawati hills. It is fed by a large number of streams and nullahs from the neighbouring depression and north-western range of hills. The river mostly flows in Shekhawati, and during rainy season floods are common owing to heavy rainfall on the Aravalli hills. Its average width is about 550 metres and it flows past, Lamore, Khari and Khurab villages near Rajgarh. It dries up near Berasar soon after its entry into this district. During floods its water is used for irrigation purposes.

TANKS AND LAKES—The lake of Chhapar in Sujangarh is the only lake in the district. It is the principal source of salt in Churu and is about 3 km wide and 10 km long. It is very shallow and almost dries up before the summer starts. The lake, like all lakes in the sandy tracts is formed by a depression which receives drainage from the surroundings. When the rains are heavy and the lake water extends beyond the usual bed and floods the surrounding area up, wheat and other crops are sown as the water recedes. There are excellent grazing grounds round the lake. There are no tanks in the district deserving mention.

TUBE WELLS—The first tube well in the district was sunk in the year 1961-62 and it is located in Sujangarh. During the year 1965-66 there were five tube wells in the district. The remaining four tube wells were drilled in the year 1964-65 at Churu, which are used for supplying drinking water to the city population. The water level in tube wells in different areas is between 34 to 35 metres. Ground Water Survey of whole of the district has not been undertaken as yet.

WELLS—The underground water is the main source of water supply both for drinking and other purposes. But due to low level of water, digging of wells particularly for irrigation is not economic. Water is lifted from wells by means of *Lao-charas* drawn by a pair of bullocks or a camel. However, some irrigation is done by wells in almost all the towns of the district. In Sujangarh and Sardarshahr tahsils of the district, the water of wells is sweet and adequate for irrigation and other purposes. In Sujangarh tahsil the level is only 4 to 5 metres deep. Here people build *kuchcha* wells and irrigate their fields by *Dhenkali*¹ system. The wells have quite adequate water

1 *Dhenkali*—A peculiar device is adopted in the villages for drawing water from the well and is known as dhenkali. This is a contrivance consisting of a big pole, some six metres long fixed firmly in the ground near the well, the upper end bifurcating into two branches, each about half a metre in length. A piece of

supply, but it becomes brackish after a year or two and, therefore, new wells have to be dug and the old ones are abandoned

In the years of scarcity most of the wells constructed for supply of drinking water, are used for irrigation purposes also

The number of wells¹ in the district during 1960-61 to 1965-66 was as under

| Year | Wells in use | Wells not in use |
|---------|--------------|------------------|
| 1960-61 | 672 | 17 |
| 1961-62 | 90 | 17 |
| 1962-63 | 276 | 4 |
| 1963-64 | 314 | 11 |
| 1964-65 | 172 | 5 |
| 1965-66 | 50 | 21 |

The total irrigated land² in the district is negligible as can be observed from the sub-joined table.

(Hectares)

| Year | Area irrigated by | | | | Total |
|---------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| | Canals | Tanks | Wells & Tube wells | Other sources | |
| 1956-57 | - | - | 80 | - | 80 |
| 1957-58 | - | - | 123 | - | 123 |
| 1958-59 | - | - | 169 | - | 169 |
| 1959-60 | - | - | 149 | 12 | 161 |
| 1960-61 | - | - | 185 | 11 | 196 |
| 1961-62 | - | - | 66 | 71 | 137 |
| 1962-63 | - | - | 85 | 69 | 154 |
| 1963-64 | - | - | 106 | - | 106 |
| 1964-65 | - | 5 | 119 | - | 124 |
| 1965-66 | - | 5 | 159 | - | 164 |

wood with a hole in the centre is fixed between the two branches and through the hole passes an other pole some three metres in length To one end of this pole which is farther away from the well, is tied a weight generally a stone of about twenty kilograms To other end is fastened a rope, to the loose end of which is hung the pot or the bucket for drawing water from the well The length of the rope is economised by inserting a long bamboo in between the two parts of the rope When water is required to be drawn from the well the rope is pulled down so that the pot or bucket attached to its lower end is immersed below the surface of the water in the well When it is filled with movement of *dhenkali* it is pulled up by the weight, the bucket or pot comes up at the mouth of the well and the water is collected

1 Collectorate, Churu

2 Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, yearly volumes for various years.

Almost all the area, irrigated in this district is accounted for by the food crops which is evident from the following table¹:

(Hectares)

| Year | Irrigated area under | | Total |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| | Food crops | Other | |
| 1956-57 | 98 | 3 | 101 |
| 1957-58 | 118 | 6 | 124 |
| 1958-59 | 162 | 7 | 169 |
| 1959-60 | 155 | 6 | 161 |
| 1960-61 | 185 | 11 | 196 |
| 1961-62 | 132 | 5 | 137 |
| 1962-63 | 152 | 2 | 154 |
| 1963-64 | 102 | 4 | 106 |
| 1964-65 | 115 | 8 | 123 |
| 1965-66 | 251 | 10 | 261 |

Soil Erosion

Soil erosion is a serious problem for agriculture, and specially in a sandy area. In this district, every year, farmers face difficulties because great changes are caused in their fields by soil erosion. It is the sheet erosion which takes place due to the strong winds that blow away the fertile layers of the soil. The north-western winds blow unchecked during the summer and shift a great quantity of sand from one place to another. The sandy nature of soil, strong winds, continuous over-grazing and indiscriminate felling of trees are the main factors responsible for soil erosion.

The Government of India took keen interest in the problems of erosion, constituted an ad-hoc committee of experts in the year 1952 to study the question. According to its recommendations a Desert Afforestation Research Station was established at Jodhpur in 1952 under the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, which was taken over by the Central Soil Conservation Board in the year 1954 and was named as Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Research Station. Again in 1959, on the recommendations of an UNESCO adviser, the institution was reorganised and the name was changed to Central Arid Zone Research Institute, under the UNESCO's major project on arid zone research. This institution is doing useful work in Churu district.

1. *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, yearly volumes for various years.

at Sardarshahr and Churu for stabilisation of shifting sand dunes. A successful technique of fixation of sand dunes has been evolved, which consists of (i) protecting the area against all the biotic factors, (ii) mulching with bush wood in parallel strips across the prevailing wind direction, and (iii) planting of brick raised seedlings. The brick planting technique has given the best results. Brick having top cross section 10×10 cm., bottom cross section 15×15 cm. are moulded from a mixture of clay, sand and manure mixed in equal parts into truncated pyramidal shape which are sun dried. The seedlings are raised in the bricks either by seed sowing or from cuttings. These seedlings, established in the bricks are transplanted with the bricks intact. About 225 hectares of shifting sand dunes have been successfully stabilized by adopting this technique.

With a view to developing methods for speedy regeneration of native rangelands and to provide nutritious forage to livestock, studies on range management and animal production were taken up in 1959 in Ratargarh, Sardarshahr, Gopalpura and Churu.

In future, this institute will undertake programmes on farm forestry, wind strip cropping, pasture development and range management, etc.

AGRICULTURE

Soil

No detailed soil survey has been conducted so far, regarding the nature of the soil in the district. The only land or soil survey that has been undertaken in this area is the one done by settlement officers but they did not study the nature, complexion and fertility of the soil. They have simply classified the soil into *Baram* (un-irrigated) and *Chahi* (irrigated).

The soil of the entire area is sandy and contains as much as 90 to 95 per cent sand and only about 5 to 7 per cent clay. High sand dunes are found almost everywhere which can be classified into three groups viz, longitudinal, barchans and transverse. These sand dunes are not fit for agriculture and no vegetation can be grown on them. In some parts of the district hard and level fields are found which are scattered over the entire region but they are more common in Rajgarh and Sujargarh tahsils. These are quite suitable for growing of grain, barley and wheat when irrigation is possible. In Dungargarh tahsil

the soil is more sandy, as well as *bhoodli* which is poor in plant nutrients and has very poor retentive power *Bajra* can be grown on this type of soil if rainfall is adequate

Saline soils, containing a high amount of sodium and magnesium, are found in Rajgarh and Churu tahsils near and around the Dudwakhara, near Ramgarh and in certain parts of Sardarshahr tahsil and are unsuitable for growing crops In certain areas where land is less alkaline, *bajra*, *guar* and *moth* are cultivated.

Crops

The principal food crops of the district are *bajra*, *jowar*, wheat, barley, gram and pulses Sesamum, rape and mustard are the commercial crops grown here The following table indicates the extent of area¹ under each crop for the last 10 years

| Year | <i>Bajra</i> | <i>Jowar</i> | Wheat | Barley | Gram | Other pulses | (Hectares) |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------|--------|--------------|--|
| | | | | | | | Oil seeds, Sesamum Rape & Mustard |
| 1956-57 | 319,707 | 910 | 511 | 313 | 13,293 | 397,498 | 3,507 |
| 1957-58 | 370,912 | 1,423 | 557 | 1,407 | 22,926 | 355,240 | 3,532 |
| 1958-59 | 366,781 | 1,221 | 894 | 628 | 30,897 | 325,265 | 9,083 |
| 1959-60 | 202,438 | 1,010 | 1,570 | 2,238 | 44,063 | 342,884 | 5,732 |
| 1960-61 | 227,667 | 894 | 1,219 | 1,088 | 45,290 | 191,920 | 3,259 |
| 1961-62 | 374,456 | 1,920 | 1,400 | 1,689 | 51,234 | 301,251 | 5,108 |
| 1962-63 | 363,575 | 2,301 | 1,468 | 648 | 61,557 | 362,703 | 9,227 |
| 1963-64 | 395,713 | 1,521 | 924 | 569 | 68,327 | 369,622 | 1,775 |
| 1964-65 | 430,108 | 1,474 | 349 | 88 | 41,915 | 400 572 | 4,392 |
| 1965-66 | 450,149 | 645 | 206 | 408 | 48,643 | 4,390 | 3,067 |

The above table reveals that among the cereals the area under *bajra* crop is the largest followed in order by other pulses, gram and *jowar* *Bajra* is usually sown with *moth*, as both these crops fare well together The soil is not very suitable for the cultivation of wheat and barley.

1. *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, yearly volumes for various years.

Mixed cropping is very common in this district. It is partly necessitated by shortage of available land and partly as an insurance against the failure of a crop. *Bajra* is sown with *moth*, *moong* or *gwar* as subsidiary crop. Of the two crops, if one fails the other might survive due to its different needs. Further, generally, one of the mixed crops is leguminous and helps the soil to regain its lost fertility.

Crops are mixed by rotation. In one year *bajra* may be the main crop and *moong*, *moth* or *gwar* subsidiary. Next year the process would be reversed. Sometimes three crops *bajra*, *moong* and *moth* or *bajra*, *moong* and *gwar* are cultivated at a time.

In the rabi crops, gram is generally sown alone under dry cultivation. Taramira and *sarson* are also cultivated as single crops in dry cultivation. In case of irrigated cultivation, barley is sown with gram, wheat is sown with taramira and *sarson*.

The production figures¹ of various crops for the last ten years are given below. They show that the yield in this district was very poor.

(Tonnes)

| Year | <i>Bajra</i> | <i>Jwar</i> | Wheat | Barley | Gram | Other pluses | Oil Seeds Sesamum Rape & Mustard |
|---------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------------|---|
| 1956-57 | 25,799 | 221 | 618 | 290 | 3,472 | 75,180 | 789 |
| 1957-58 | 27,853 | 436 | 370 | 523 | 6,552 | 57,281 | 884 |
| 1958-59 | 53,441 | 397 | 973 | 478 | 7,443 | 68,188 | 1,176 |
| 1959-60 | 25,857 | 309 | 1,100 | 933 | 3,753 | 51,478 | 682 |
| 1960-61 | 20,600 | 255 | 1,457 | 1,225 | 37,209 | 27,666 | 426 |
| 1961-62 | 74,286 | 393 | 1,078 | 495 | 27,448 | 74,467 | 375 |
| 1962-63 | 57,048 | 369 | 1,252 | 262 | 17,800 | 82,442 | 1,269 |
| 1963-64 | 66,527 | 158 | 424 | 69 | 27,186 | 47,329 | 39 |
| 1964-65 | 61,704 | 202 | 267 | 44 | 18,652 | 92,969 | 346 |
| 1965-66 | 26,741 | 11 | 136 | 143 | 4,291 | 38,217 | 70 |

1 Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, yearly volumes for various years

58/2/4

Fruits and Vegetables

Vegetables and fruits are grown here and there to serve the towns in the district. In the rural areas a few cultivators grow some vegetables for their daily use. The various types of vegetables grown in district are bringals, lady-fingers, raddish, tomato and carrot etc.

The only fruit of the district is water melon which is called here *Matira*. It is available in plenty and used here by human beings as well as for cattle feed. The *Matira* seeds are pounded and mixed with flour of some cereals and used for human consumption. Regarding this fruit Elphinstone wrote "In the midst of so arid a country, the water melon the most juicy of fruits, is found in profusion. It is really a subject of wonder to see melons three or four feet in circumference growing from a stalk as slender as that of a common melon in the dry sand of desert. They are sown and perhaps require some cultivation, but they are scattered about to all appearance, as if they grew wild. The natives assert that a large melon suffices to allay the thirst of a horse and his rider."¹

Agricultural Implements

Most of the agricultural implements used in the district are traditional and primitive and only a few of them have been replaced by improved ones. The plough is made by the cultivator himself with the help of carpenter. It consists of wooden beam with an iron point, a wooden handle and a pole for the yoke. It is light enough to be carried to the field by the farmer himself on his shoulders. At present, the use of iron plough is gaining popularity. The Agricultural Department is making efforts to introduce improved types of implements in the district by giving practical demonstrations of their uses.

A list of implements and tools in general use in the district together with their probable life is given at Appendix II.

The following table records the data² about the agricultural implements and machinery in the district :

1. Erskine, K. D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III, p. 344.

2. *Livestock Census Reports*, Rajasthan, for various years, published by the Board of Revenue, Rajasthan, Ajmer.

| Particulars | Years | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1956 | 1961 | 1966 |
| Ploughs | 63,534 | 72,410 | 84,974 |
| Carts | 4,505 | 5,864 | 7,033 |
| Oil Engines | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Electric Pumps | 20 | 5 | 41 |
| Tractors | 5 | 9 | 16 |
| Sugarcane Crushers | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Oil <i>Ghanis</i> | 139 | 181 | 115 |
| Persian wheel | — | 1 | 1 |

SEEDS—The use of improved seeds give better yield of crops. It is said that they increase the yield by 15 to 20 per cent. Improved and approved varieties of seeds were introduced here by the Agriculture Department through their Extension Officers more than a decade ago. The seeds are released to the cultivators at the time of sowing. During the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 about 395 tonnes of improved variety of seeds were distributed. There are four seed stores in the district located at Rajgarh, Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Sardarshahr. There is a seed farm at Khasoli village which was started in the year 1958.

MANURES—The desert soils not only lack in moisture but also in organic matter such as nitrogen and phosphorous. The farmers of this district are not always able to manure their fields because the scarcity of fuel compels them to use cattle-dung as fuel and not as manure. The Royal Commission on Agriculture estimated that 40 per cent of the total dung production in India is used as fuel in one form or the other. This percentage is higher here due to lack of wood for fuel. In this district roughly half of the cattle-dung is said to be used as fuel and the rest for manurial purposes. Farm-yard manure, which is capable of supplying food material to all the plants, necessary for the healthy growth of crops is most common. The usual practice of preserving farm-yard manure is the heap system as against the pit method. The dung is usually mixed with other farm-yard manure and is collected in a corner, which suffers from all the inclemencies of weather. The pit method is certainly useful as it ensures preservation and retention of moisture contents of the manure, wastage is minimised and does not effect the sanitary conditions adversely. In this respect some

work has been done by the Agriculture Department through Extension Officers working in various Panchayat Samitis. The number of compost pits dug and filled is given below :

| | |
|---------|--------|
| 1960-61 | 11,706 |
| 1961-62 | 12,304 |
| 1962-63 | 3,200 |
| 1963-64 | 2,398 |
| 1964-65 | 2,210 |
| 1965-66 | 2, 83 |

The other types of manure prepared from bones, hoofs, blood and meat-meals are unknown in this district. The dead animals goat and sheep are either thrown away or buried deep in the ground. There are some persons who collect bones, hoofs, horns etc and export them to other places

Green manuring is another useful process for fertilising land at low cost. It is cheaper and more efficient way of retaining nitrogen in the soil. For this district *jowar* is a useful crop for this purpose, but owing to the scarcity of arable land and lack of irrigation facilities the cultivators do not make much use of green manure.

Chemical manures and fertilisers for large-scale use are too costly for average cultivator. Moreover, they are not used due to lack of irrigational facilities in the district. However, efforts are being made to popularise them.

Every year free chemical manures and fertilisers are distributed to the farmers by the Agriculture Department, to lay out demonstration plots. The cultivators have started realising the importance of using chemical manures and fertilisers, and demand of various kinds of fertilisers is increasing. The following table¹ highlights the position of manure utilisation for last five years in Churu district:

| Years | Manures distributed (Tonnes) |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 1961-62 | 4.5 |
| 1962-63 | 8.0 |
| 1963-64 | 3.0 |
| 1964-65 | 46.6 |
| 1965-66 | 11.4 |

1. District Agriculture Officer, Churu.

CROP ROTATION—The rotation of crops was unknown in the desert in the olden days, but now it is being practised by the farmers and they cultivate *bajra* in one year and other crops next year. Mixed cropping is another good method of crop rotation. Fallow lands are invariably used for the cultivation of *jowar* which is followed by *bajra* as the main crop. This system is prevalent throughout the district except in the south-western region of Dungargarh tahsil where *bajra* is cultivated only in years of adequate rainfall. These rotations, naturally vary from region to region in accordance with the nature of soil and climate.

CROP DISEASES—No survey has been conducted so far for determining the loss of agricultural production, caused by crop diseases, but it is well known that considerable damage is caused due to crop diseases. The State Government has taken various measures to check the diseases in the crops. Spraying of pesticide is done by the staff of Agriculture Department. The main diseases in the district are *green ear* and *smut* which are prevalent in *bajra* crop. These can be controlled by destroying the infested plants and seed treatment.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS—The damage done to crops is normally from animals, birds and pests. The animals are usually stray cattle, and Jackals, the birds are such as parrots, crows and bats, and rodents like rats and rabbits. The fruits on the trees in urban and rural areas are damaged by monkeys, sparrows and other birds and squirrels. The usual means of protection are adequate fencing and keeping proper watch. Grass hoppers, *babel*, gram cut worm, caterpillars, white ants, *katara* (yellow pest) and locusts are the main insect pests of this district. Some skilful farmers usually control these pests by making trenches around the affected fields so that they may not cross over. Rats are being destroyed by poison baits, etc.

Locust invasions are very common and dangerous. Whenever there is a locust invasion, the entire crop, the trees and the other plants are totally devoured by the locusts leaving only the trunks, the naked branches and the stems. Control of crop pests is the responsibility of the State Government but due to their enormous powers of migration and devastation, the locusts have been recognised as a national problem. The areas where the locust usually breed have been declared as scheduled desert by the Government of India. For proper supervision and control, scheduled desert area is divided into four circles which are further sub-divided into nine zones. Churu forms one of the zones in the Bikaner circle. The zones comprised a number of

out-posts located at strategic points in the interior of the desert. During 1965-66 there were three outposts in the Churu zone located each at Churu, Taranagar and Dungargarh. The number of these out-posts increases during the active locust cycle. Each zone is headed by a Locust Warning Officer who is assisted by technical and non-technical staff. Each post is manned by an Assistant Locust Warning Officer who is assisted by Junior Technical Assistant, and other technical and non-technical staff. Sufficient quantities of insecticides and application equipments are kept in reserve. A light or medium vehicle is provided for survey and control operations. During the active locust cycle, the out-posts are equipped with wireless sets for quick transmission of reports on locust incidence to zonal and circle offices.

The district of Churu is one of the important and typical locust breeding areas and for that reason the first observation post was established at Sardarshahr as early as 1934, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (then Imperial). Between 1940 and 1966, the district has suffered from three locust plagues of varying durations. The last heavy locust infestation was from 1960 to 1962 during which period 2,303 localities were involved in heavy locust breeding. 1,427 swarm movements were recorded in the district during 1960 and 1961. More than two hundred thirty five tonnes of insecticidal dust and one thousand litres of liquid insecticides were used to control the hoppers and swarms. All the control operations were carried out by voluntary labour contributed by the cultivators.

DEPARTMENTAL ORGANISATION—Keeping in view the little scope of agricultural development in the district no separate District Agriculture Officer for Churu district has been appointed. The District Agriculture Officer posted at Churu looks after the work of two districts viz, Bikaner and Churu. The office was established in the year 1957. The present strength of the office consists of Plant Protection Supervisor, Agriculture Assistant and other ministerial staff. One Agriculture Extension Officer is posted in each of the seven Panchayat Samitis. He is on deputation. The District Agriculture Office, in collaboration with the Panchayat Samitis tries to improve crop production by suggesting better methods of cultivation through demonstrations, supplying better seeds and fertilisers. There were four seed stores in Churu district as on 31.3.1966 located at Rajgarh, Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Sardarshahr. Total seed distribution made in the district during 1961-62 to 1965-66 was 3,946 tonnes. The departmental activities also extend to land improvement and distribution of loans.

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS—The only research station in the district is the Forestry Research Unit Churu functioning under the Central Arid Zone Research Institute. This unit has evolved techniques of stabilisation of shifting sand-dunes and future management of such dunes.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

FODDER—The area under fodder crops in this district is negligible, because in most of the parts only one crop is sown and that too is entirely dependent on rain. Grass grows only during the rainy season and for the rest of the year the land remains barren. Often the rain comes quite in time but fails afterwards. When there are famine conditions in the district, the cattle are either fed on the stored stock of fodder or in case no such fodder is available, shifted to the adjoining tracts outside the district.

In recent years the areas reserved for pasture and grazing purposes have considerably increased.

The most common kinds of fodder grown in this district are *Bhurat*, *Bug*, *Lampri*, *Dockals*, *Ghantil* and *Sewan*, *Pala* and *Khejra* bushes. Their leaves constitute very good fodder for the cattle. *Gwar* occupies an important place in fodder crops. It is mainly used for feeding milch cows and buffaloes, as it increases the yield of milk. *Moong* and *Moth* are good fodder crops but these are not included among them.

CATTLE AND SHEEP BREEDING—Animal husbandry is an integral part of the agricultural economy of the district, and a useful sparetime occupation for the peasants. Animal rearing is the second important means of earning livelihood for a large number of people. They earn good income from sale of surplus animals and dairy products like milk, butter and *ghee*. Their dung is used as manure, and as fuel after it dries.

The district is rich in livestock not only numerically but also qualitatively. No precise data of the movement of livestock is at hand. The cattle are exported mostly to the Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

CATTLE—Cattle are extensively bred in this district. The cow serves as a source of milk, and of its products, curd is used as

an article of diet by the people of this district, and *ghee* is exported to other districts. The important breed of cattle is *Haryana*. It is a dual purpose breed, bullocks being good draught animals and cows having high milk-yielding capacity. The milk yield per annum of cow in Churu and Rajasthan is 756 lbs and 321 lbs respectively. The milk yield per annum in India has been recorded 382 lbs. per annum ¹

Nagauri breed animals are also found here which are very famous for their speed in carts and chariots. They look very beautiful and have great stamina and are in demand all over India and fetch higher price than any other breed of Indian cattle.

BUFFALOES—Buffaloes are not found in plenty. The she-buffaloes are kept mainly for milk and *ghee* and the he-buffaloes are used for carriage and draught. *Murrah*, *Rath*, *Nagauri* and *Rathi* are some of the famous breeds of buffaloes. The following table gives the information relating to the cattle population in the district according to the Live Stock Census Reports of 1956 and 1966 :

| | 1956 | 1966 |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 Male Cattle | | |
| (i) Breeding | 821 | 1,010 |
| (ii) Working | 23,848 | 15,141 |
| (iii) Others | 398 | 293 |
| 2 Female Cattle | | |
| (i) In milk | 68,719 | 82,689 |
| (ii) Dry | 40,733 | 53,212 |
| (iii) Others | 16,884 | 10,122 |
| 3. Young Stock | | |
| (i) Male | 55,753 | 51,065 |
| (ii) Female | 66,129 | 73,995 |
| 4 Male Buffaloes | | |
| (i) Breeding | 305 | 327 |
| (ii) Working | 3,660 | 4,546 |
| (iii) Others | 113 | 124 |

1 *Techno-Economic Survey of Rajasthan*, National Council of Applied Economic Research.

5. Female Buffaloes

| | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| (i) In milk | 28,593 | 37,127 |
| (ii) Dry | 12,639 | 21,020 |
| (iii) Others | 6,015 | 7,803 |

6 Young Stock

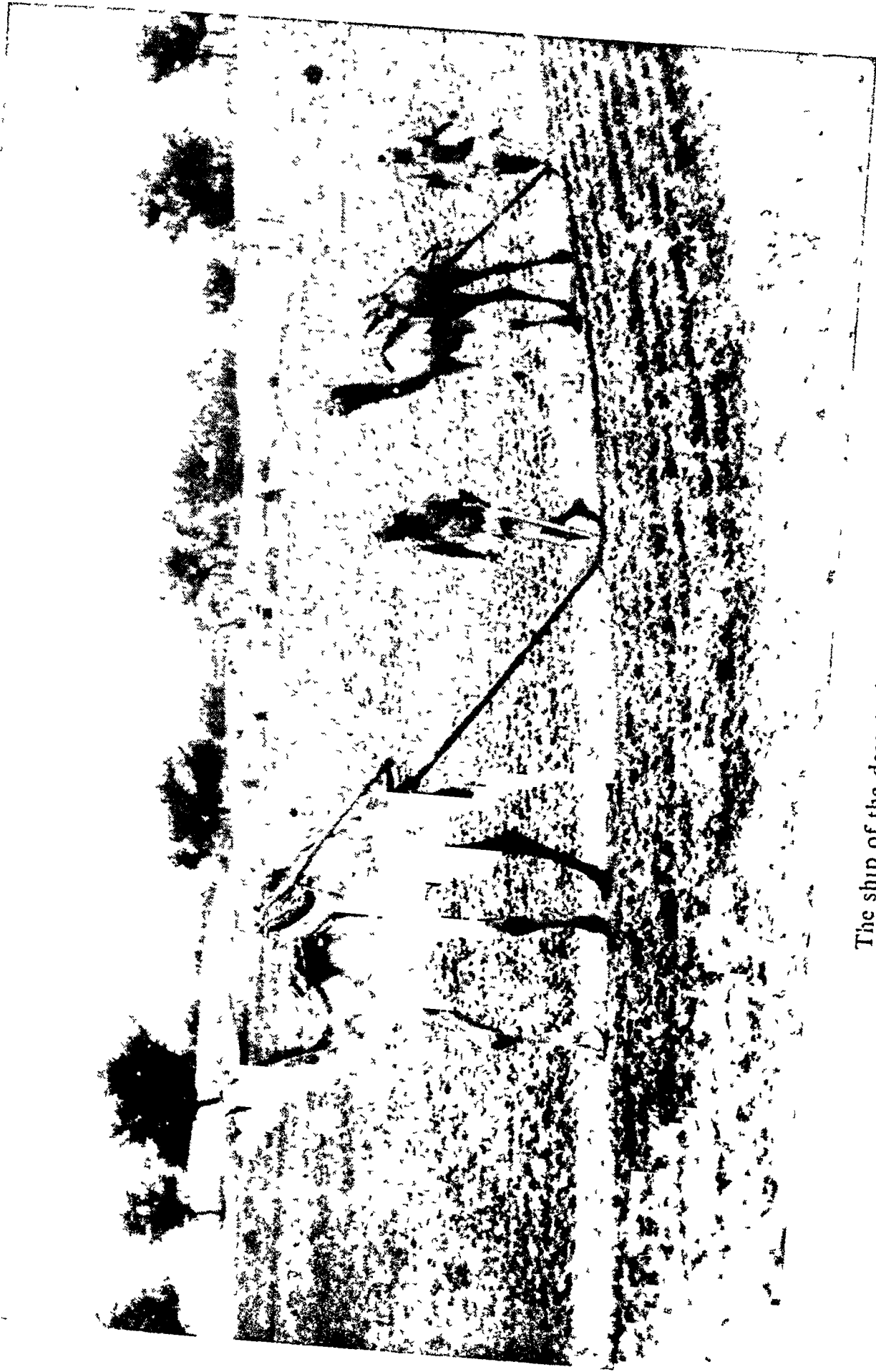
| | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| (i) Male | 18,049 | 17,903 |
| (ii) Female | 26,920 | 42,583 |

CAMEL—Camel is known as the ship of the desert. It is a multipurpose animal whose cost of maintenance is very small. It can live without water for several days together which makes it very useful in desert areas. It is most common, convenient and the fastest means of conveyance in the desert. It is used for pleasure rides and for ploughing, harrowing and loading purposes. Milk of the camel is used, both as an article of diet and as a medicine. Its skin is used for making jars for containing *ghee* and oil. Now-a-days the price of a camel ranges between Rs 300/- to 1,000/- As per Live-stock Census Reports there were 53,863 camels in the year 1956 which increased to 86,133 in the year 1966.

SHEEP AND GOATS—Rearing of sheep and goats constitutes an important occupation of certain nomadic communities such as *Baverias*, *Oads* and *Sansi*. Some cultivators also maintain small flocks. It is interesting to note that most of the owners of flocks do not possess any land and consequently they encroach upon the arable lands of others for grazing their animals. This constitutes a serious menace to the entire vegetation of the area in general and to the crops in particular. Among the sheep, *Nali* and *Chokla* breeds of Churu are famous. These are breeds for dual purpose i.e. mutton and wool.

The sheep are housed in pens enclosed by thorny bushes, available locally, located in a corner of the village. During migration they are folded in open fields and watched by dogs. Water is given to the flock only once a day or sometimes on alternate days.

For breeding purposes good stud rams are often brought from neighbouring flock for cash or in exchange. During the Second Five Year Plan there were nine Sheep and Wool Extension-cum-Shearing Centres, located at Churu, Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Chhappar, Rajgarh, Sardarshahr, Dungargarh, Rajaldesar and Taranagar. At



The ship of the desert tilling the fields

these centres good stud rams are maintained and distributed to the registered flock masters, free of cost for service purposes. Under the Third Five Year Plan, Ram Lamb Raising Scheme, sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was implemented at Churu. The main idea of the scheme is to provide marketing facilities to the breeder for the good ram lambs, they have bred. These ram lambs are purchased at the age of about 6 months and maintained at Extension Centres till their maturity. Then they are distributed to the key flocks to improve breed. Under this scheme 725 rams were purchased, of which 435 were distributed. Sheep shearing sheds have been established in the district with a view to providing facilities to the flock masters to undertake shearing on scientific lines.

Churu district is one of the four in Rajasthan selected for implementing scheme of shearing, grading and marketing of wool under the integrated programme.

Marwari and *Lohi* goats of Churu are well known as poor man's cows as their milk yield is much more than that of other breeds. *Marwari* breed is also famous for mutton. Their hair is very valuable as it is spun into coarse thread yarn or string and is mostly used for making sacks for carrying various goods on donkeys and camels.

POULTRY FARMING—Though lucrative, poultry farming is not popular in this district. In rural areas it is conspicuous by its absence. In urban areas, however, it is pursued by a few persons. People of this area do not take this business on ground of religious sentiments.

Other animals found in the district are horses, ponies, mules, donkeys and pigs. The population of sheep and goats etc. is given below.

| Animals | Years | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1956 ¹ | 1966 ² |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Sheep over one year | | |
| (i) Male | 94,028 | 67,960 |
| (ii) Female | 1,83,056 | 2,03,700 |
| 2. Sheep upto one year | 62,744 | 50,451 |

1. *Live Stock Census Report*, Rajasthan, 1956

2. *Live Stock Census Report*, Rajasthan, 1966

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| 3 Goats over one year | | |
| (i) Male | 21,345 | 1,65,380 |
| (ii) Female | 1,32,049 | |
| 4 Goats upto one year | 73,321 | 1,05,640 |
| 5 Horses and Ponnies | 514 | 604 |
| 6 Mules | 4 | 13 |
| 7 Donkeys | 2,550 | 3,054 |
| 8. Pigs | 16 | 33 |
| 9. Fowls | | |
| (i) Cocks | 656 | 1,486 |
| (ii) Hens | 754 | 1,692 |
| (iii) Chickens | 655 | 730 |
| 10. Ducks etc. | 50 | 16 |

FISHERIES—Fishery does not play any important role in the economic life of the district as it has limited water resources. There are no possibilities of developing fisheries in this district.

Efforts in the direction of live stock development are being made in the district by the State Government and considerable progress has been made. There is no artificial insemination centre in the district but bulls of improved variety have been kept in the veterinary hospitals at Churu, Ratangarh, Dungargarh, Taranagar, Sadulpur and Sujangarh. Improved breeds of stud bulls and rams are supplied by the Panchayat Samitis from time to time to the villages for the improvement of breeds. During 1961-62 to 1965-66, 306 bulls and 47 he-buffaloes were distributed by the Panchayat Samitis.

Under the *Goshala* Development Scheme, a number of *goshalas* in the district are being given aid to enable them to develop into scientific breeding centres. There are nine *goshalas* in the district which are located at Churu, Sardarshahr, Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Dungargarh, Taranagar, Sadulpur, Bidasar and Chhapar. Aid has been given to *goshalas* of Churu, Sardarshahr and Ratangarh, under the *Goshala* Development Scheme. Sixteen cattle shows and cattle rallies were held during 1961-62 to 1965-66 in the district by the Panchayat Samitis.

There is neither a State dairy farm nor any private dairy farm registered in the district. Five poultry farms were registered in the year 1965-66.

The medical wing of the Animal Husbandry Department is devoted mainly to the treatment and prevention of animal diseases. This district is served by seven veterinary hospitals and dispensaries. Besides, a mobile veterinary dispensary has also been functioning in the district since 1961. The progress of work done in these hospitals and dispensaries is given below ¹

| Item | Years | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1961-62 | 1962-63 | 1963-64 | 1964-65 | 1965-66 |
| 1. Animals Treated | 31,363 | 30,501 | 59,675 | 59,675 | 65,957 |
| 2. Animals Vaccinated | 47,642 | - | 1,585 | 2,550 | 3,156 |
| 3. Animals Castrated | 1,310 | 1,059 | 975 | 655 | 739 |
| 4. Medicines Distributed | 565 | 865 | 677 | 1,050 | 4,340 |

CATTLE DISEASES—The foot-and-mouth disease occurs during the rainy season. This disease is not very fatal, but very contagious, and causes great economic loss as it reduces the milk-yield of cows and buffaloes and disables the working cattle during its sickness. Animals suffering from this disease recover quickly with no permanent disablement if proper and timely treatment is provided. No preventive inoculations are available for this disease, though regular treatment for affected cattle is made available in all veterinary institutions.

Malignant sore throat (Haemorrhagic Septicaemia) is the seasonal disease which spreads here before the advent of rains, and is locally called *galaghotu*. This is a dangerous ailment mostly affecting the buffaloes. Obvious symptoms of this disease are swelling in the throat and high fever which prevents the animal from eating anything and results in death in 80 to 90 per cent of cases. The only remedy is inoculation.

The other disease from which the animals suffer is black-quarter which is locally called *Pharkaya*. This disease spreads in winter season just after rains and particularly affects the young

1. Animal Husbandry Officer, district Churu

stocks. The symptoms of this disease are swelling of the hip and constipation, the colour of the blood becomes black and the animal feels difficulty in moving. It is a rare but fatal disease and mortality on this account ranges between 80 to 90 per cent.

Goats generally suffer from contagious caprine pleuro disease which spreads in rainy season. The affected animal becomes lazy, water comes out of its mouth and eyes, and it feels difficulty in breathing due to swelling in the lungs. The remedy is inoculation.

Among the sheep, sheep-pox disease is very common. Other sheep diseases are Anthrax, Scabies, etc. In order to control internal parasites the dispensaries are provided with medicines and drenching machines and periodical dosing of sheep is done. For the control of internal parasites, a sheep dip has been constructed by the side of each shearing shed. Portable sheep-dips have also been supplied. Sheep flocks at appropriate time are brought to such sheep-dips for dipping in the chemical water. Sprayers are used in villages where such facilities are not available.

CATTLE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS—Cattle fairs and exhibitions are organised in the district by various Panchayat Samitis. The important fairs are the cattle fairs of Churu, Rajgarh, Salasar, Chhapar and Ratangarh. Minor cattle fairs are held at Tharda, and Rampuria. In the year 1965-66 eight cattle fairs were organised in the district.

Floods and Famines

This district is subject to the ravages of famines and suffer greatly from deficiency of food, fodder and water. It can be said that scarcity is the rule rather than the exception in this area.

The first recorded famine was that of 1755-56. The then ruler organised food distribution and other relief measures, details of which are not available.

The other famines occurred in the years 1789, 1819, 1844, 1834 and 1849 followed by a bad year, 1860.

The famine of 1868-69 was an acute one, which carried away about one third of the population and bulk of the cattle. The State had no plans to meet the situation. However, the philanthropists started small relief measures and also distributed cooked food.

Such was the scarcity of food and fodder that the prices of grain rose gradually to about six kilograms per rupee and cows were offered for sale at rupee one each.

The famine of 1891-92 was caused by the failure of crops in succession. The crops withered due to the failure of monsoon in 1891. The winter rains were also scarce which completed the famine conditions. There were grain riots in many villages. Relief works such as tank digging, repairs of wells etc. were started by the State. Grass was hardly available and in the beginning of 1892 it sold at 32 kilograms for a rupee. The loss of cattle was estimated at about 50 per cent of the total cattle population and emigration was three times of that in the ordinary years. But the conditions improved at the end of 1892 and the majority of the cattle population returned. Prices of *bajra* and *moth* came down.

The years 1892-93 to 1895-96 were fair but the year 1896-97 witnessed an extensive failure of *kharif* crop. The relief works consisted of remission of land revenue and *taccavi* loans. Prices of food-grains ranged between 7 to 8 kg per rupee. Fodder scarcity was serious and loss of cattle population was estimated at about 30 per cent.

The famine of 1899-1900 was one of the worst. The monsoon of 1900 commenced with good showers in June but failed in the crucial month of July which caused severe famine, more disastrous than any of the previous ones. The timely help by the then ruler of Bikaner and well thought out relief plan, executed under his personal supervision enabled the people to withstand the calamity boldly. Relief works were so planned as not only to provide immediate relief to the famine stricken people but to earn long range profits to the State. People engaged in relief work were paid their daily wages in grain at the rate of 966 grams per man, 758 grams per woman and 415 grams per child. Non-working children and infants were given 350 grams and 204 grams respectively. Poor-houses were set up one each at Churu and Rajgarh, which were managed by local bankers. The daily rations issued from these institutions were 465, 415 and 292 grams respectively to a man, woman and child. The distressed *Parda-nashin* women were fed at different camps and were accommodated in huts specially erected for them. About 22 per cent of the population emigrated and 70 per cent cattle were

said to have died. The total expenditure on relief in the whole of the Bikaner State was more than Rs. 8.5 lac of which nearly 50 per cent was subscribed by the bankers who were reputed for their philanthropy. The Imperial Service Camel Corps was converted into a famine fighting unit which rendered excellent service. A famine committee was appointed, which under its direction managed various branches of relief and provided various facilities to famine-stricken people. In spite of all these measures, the loss in human life and live stock was very great. Nearly three-fourths of the entire cattle population died owing to scarcity of fodder and water, large numbers died of starvation and disease and some entire villages emigrated to the neighbouring areas in the hope of better conditions.

The famine of 1899-1900 was followed by successive bad years which further worsened the economic conditions. Remissions in land revenue were announced by the then ruler in the years 1902-03, 1904-05, 1909-10, 1911-12 and 1918-19. Besides, many other concessions were provided, which included abolition of interest on arrears of land revenue, payment of revenue in two half-yearly instalments instead of annual instalment, facilities for more land on lease, free-grants for constructing and repairing of wells and tanks. These concessions were in addition to normal *taccavi* advances which were considerably liberalised to benefit the cultivators.

There was scarcity again in 1915-16 and 1918-19 but timely measures were taken by the then Government to afford relief. In 1915 Rs. two lac were given as interest free loan for one year in addition to free grant of Rs. one lac for the purchase of camels and cattle which were made available at half price by Government subsidy. Grazing fees on cattle belonging to the *khalsa* villages were abolished for the year. The ruler extended railways and irrigation facilities. Regular budgetary provision was made for liberal *taccavi* advances, amounting to more than Rs. 30,00,000 between 1930-31 and 1935-36.

The year 1939-40 again witnessed famine, caused by failure of rains. Most of the fields were not sown and in those sown, seed did not germinate. Famine was declared on 20-8-1939. Relief measures were immediately sanctioned. The tahsils of Sardarshahr, Dungargarh and Churu were partially affected while the tahsils of Sujangarh, Ratangarh and Taranagar were generally affected. No money was spared in saving human life and livestock. Roads from Nokha mandī to Chhappar 110 km (69 miles) costing about Rs. five lac, Reni to Rajgarh

thirty six km (24 miles) costing about rupees sixty thousand and Chhapar to Salasar via Sujangarh thirty seven km , costing about rupees one lac were constructed The Municipal Boards of Sardarshahr and Churu spent money for constructing metalled roads within their respective areas to provide employment to the famine labour Wages were offered on a scale sufficient to meet the immediate needs of the labour. In order to organise the relief work in an efficient manner the affected area was divided into circles and each circle was put in charge of a separate officer Some of the important relief measures taken by the then ruler in various years are given below

1. Proportionate remission and suspensions in land revenue in affected areas
2. Free travel on the Bikaner State Railways to join relief works.
3. Reduction in freight on the movement of grass, fodder and cattle by rail
4. Opening of fodder depots at different places to supply fodder at cheap rates
5. Grant of gratuitous relief to the aged, infirm and *parda-nashin* women and dependents of labourers Milk was also supplied to infants in famine camps

Since independence and the merger of the area with Rajasthan, the Government have been granting famine relief in a liberal and systematic manner to the famine stricken people of the district The Churu district suffers from scarcity and famine conditions very frequently because it lies in the desert area where land is sandy and rainfall is scanty. Year-wise details of the tahsils and villages of Churu district which were affected by famine in the recent years are given below

| Year | Number of famine affected | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Tahsils | Villages |
| 1951-52 | 7 | Not available |
| 1952-53 | 4 | 566 |
| 1953-54 | 5 | 657 |
| 1954-55 | 7 | 349 |
| 1957-58 | 7 | 596 |
| 1958-59 | 5 | 47 |
| 1960-61 | 4 | 280 |
| 1961-62 | 2 | 21 |
| 1962-63 | 2 | 30 |
| 1963-64 | 7 | 382 |

Famine conditions did not prevail in any part of the district during the years 1955-56, 1956-57, 1959 60 and 1964-65

During the year 1965-66 the famine conditions were declared in 518 villages of seven tahsils of the district. The affected population and live stock was 2 59 lac, 3 88 lac respectively The following relief measures were taken during the year 1965-66

| Particulars | - | Unit |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Drinking water supply (amount spent) | Rs | 1,29,600 |
| Bulls distributed | No | 309 |
| Cheap price shops opened | No. | 254 |
| Remission of land revenue | Rs. | 1,09 253 |
| Tank digging | Rs | 10,000 |
| Milk powder supplied | Tonnes | 48 5 |
| Wheat flour supplied | Tonnes | 100 00 |
| Wheat supplied | Tonnes | 205 50 |

The roads given at Appendix III were constructed by the Public Works Department which gave employment to about 34, 42, 54, 53 and 38 thousand labourers respectively in the months of April, May June, July and August 1966

APPENDIX I

Land Utilisation in Churu District

('000 Hectares)

| Year | Total area as per village papers | Forests | Land not available for cultivation | | Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land | | Fallow Land | | | Total unculti- vated land | Net sown area | Area sown more than once | Total crop- ped area |
|---------|---|---------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Land put to non-agricul- tural use | Barren & uncultu- rable land | Permanent pastures & other grazing land | Land under misc tree crops & groves | Culturable waste | Fallow other than current fallow | Current fallow | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 1957-58 | 1,687 | - | 84 | 1 | 13 | - | 232 | 252 | 186 | 683 | 976 | 4 | 980 |
| 1958-59 | 1,686 | - | 83 | 1 | 14 | - | 212 | 262 | 172 | 660 | 942 | 2 | 944 |
| 1959-60 | 1,686 | - | 85 | 1 | 15 | - | 197 | 259 | 176 | 647 | 951 | 6 | 957 |
| 1960-61 | 1,686 | - | 87 | 1 | 19 | - | 195 | 238 | 148 | 600 | 999 | 7 | 1,006 |
| 1961-62 | 1,686 | 1 | 91 | 1 | 21 | - | 182 | 198 | 161 | 562 | 1,031 | 3 | 1,034 |
| 1962-63 | 1,687 | 1 | 92 | 1 | 20 | - | 186 | 208 | 136 | 550 | 1,043 | 1 | 1,044 |
| 1963-64 | 1,687 | 1 | 93 | 1 | 19 | .. | 169 | 198 | 137 | 523 | 1,069 | 1 | 1,070 |
| 1964-65 | 1,686 | 1 | 93 | 1 | 19 | - | 161 | 159 | 112 | 451 | 1,140 | 2 | 1,142 |
| 1965-66 | 1,686 | 1 | 89 | 1 | 27 | - | 137 | 137 | 190 | 492 | 1,104 | 20 | 1,124 |

Source Statistical Abstracts, Rajasthan, yearly volumes, 1958 onwards.

.. = negligible

APPENDIX II

Agricultural Implements in Churu District

| Name of the implement | Source | Probable life in years | General uses to which put |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. Plough (Wooden) | Local | 10 | For Ploughing, sowing and inter-culturing |
| 2. Bullock carts | „ | 15 | For carrying loads |
| 3. Camel carts | „ | 15 | For carrying loads |
| 4. Camel carts with pneumatic tyres | „ | 20 | For carrying heavy loads |
| 5. <i>Orna</i> | Town | 4 | For sowing seeds |
| 6. <i>Santa</i> | „ | 3 | For driving the animals |
| 7. <i>Poorani</i> | „ | 3 | For driving the animals |
| 8. <i>Jot or Tang</i> | „ | 3 | For tying the yoke to the animals |
| 9. <i>Ras</i> | Local | 2 | For controlling the animals |
| 10. <i>Phaoda</i> (spade) | „ | 4 | For trench making and bunding |
| 11. <i>Kulhari</i> (Axe) | „ | 15 | For cutting wood etc |
| 12. <i>Khudal</i> | Town | 15 | For extracting plant roots from fields |
| 13. <i>Daranti</i> (Sickle) | Local | 5 | For harvesting crops |
| 14. <i>Gandasi</i> | „ | 5 | For cutting small shrubs |
| 15. <i>Kasia</i> | „ | 6 | For weeding operations. |
| 16. <i>Joli</i> (Wooden) | „ | 2 | For controlling and lifting shrubs, grasses etc |
| (Iron) | „ | 5 | |
| 17. <i>Dantali</i> | „ | 1 | For collecting dung and levelling sand. |
| 18. <i>Patela</i> | „ | 8 | For Levelling the ploughed field. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------------------|-------|----|---|
| 19. <i>Jali</i> | Local | 10 | Big sheet woven with camel or goat wool and used for carrying dry fodder. |
| 20 <i>Salta</i> | „ | 8 | Big bag for carrying dry fodder on camel. |
| 21. Saddle (i) Ordinary | „ | 10 | For carrying load on camel |
| (ii) Special | „ | 15 | For carrying load on camel |
| 22 <i>Tuli</i> (Baskets) | „ | 1 | For carrying produce on head and for feeding cattle |
| 23 <i>Chhaj</i> | „ | 1 | For winnowing and cleaning grains |
| 24 <i>Chalani</i> | „ | 2 | For straining the earth in the threshing floor. |
| 25 <i>Lao</i> (Rope) | „ | 1 | For drawing water from wells. |
| 26 <i>Charas</i> (Leather) | „ | 1 | For lifting water from wells. |
| 27 <i>Tasla</i> | Town | | For watering cattle, bringing and drawing drinking water. |

Source . District Agriculture Officer, Churu

APPENDIX III

Roads Constructed in Churu District

| Roads | Amount spent (Rs) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Churu-Dudhwakhara | 3,63,810 |
| 2 Depalsar-Vinasar | 99,931 |
| 3 Churu-Bhaleri | 2,99,016 |
| 4 Churu-Taranagar | 2,32,387 |
| 5 Taranagar-Dudhwakhara | 2,83,952 |
| 6. Rajgarh-Bahal | 41,136 |
| 7. Rajgarh-Sidhmukh | 2,79,485 |
| 8 Rajgarh-Sankhu | 12,66,175 |
| 9 Sidhmukh-Galad | 68,851 |
| 10 Rajgarh-Dudhwakhara | 5,58,211 |
| 11 Taranagar-Bai | 5,34,554 |
| 12 Bhaleri-Sahawa | 6,35,814 |
| 13 Lalgargh-Katar | 1,09,145 |
| 14 Barasar-Sandwa | 90,846 |
| 15 Malsi-Somasar | 58,627 |
| 16 Sardarshahr-Kalu | 1,71,556 |
| 17 Bhanipura-Somasar | 97,105 |
| 18 Sardarshahr-Nohar | 1,57,992 |
| 19. Manipura-Mahajasi | 1,71,862 |
| 20 Sheruwna-Sudasar | 2,38,681 |
| 21 Bana-Bidasar | 10,138 |
| 22. Sudasar-Lakhimisar | 1,85,699 |
| 23 Dungargarh-Katar | 1,86,672 |
| 24 Adsar Momasar | 61,679 |
| 25 Dungargarh Kalu | 1,66,060 |
| 26 National Highway No 11 | 29,023 |
| 27 Lakhasar Benisar | 12,443 |
| 28 Derasar Mandwa | 9,44,312 |
| 29 Nai Gidani-Sardarshahr | 25,000 |
| 30 Adsar—Punrasar | 1,06,967 |

Source Famine Relief Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Old Industries

Situated in the desert region, the district had hardly any scope of industrial growth. The overwhelming majority of the people depended on agriculture and animal husbandry. They lived in villages, grew crops or grazed cattle, and built houses themselves. Cloth was woven by village weavers and agricultural implements were made and repaired by the village smith and carpenter. Oil was extracted from different varieties of oil seeds with the help of wooden crushers by the *telis*. However, some household industries were pursued traditionally for self sufficiency. They consisted of small units producing handicrafts such as *dari*, towels, woollen blankets known as *burdies* and *lois*, *dhabla* (woollen petticoat), and earthen pots of various varieties and designs such as water pots, flower pots, jugs, jars, cups, saucers, iron pans, and water tanks (used for carrying water) also *papar*, *sev* and pickles etc.

The wool produced in this area used for carpets was superior to even Australian wool but in the absence of any wool processing industry in the district, the raw wool was exported to big industrial towns like Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad etc., for further processing and making it suitable for knitting and weaving. In the year 1927-28, in order to revive and improve the industry of the Bikaner State (of which Churu was a part) the then ruler of Bikaner, created a Department of Commerce and Industry.

During the reign of Ganga Singh (1887-1943) six State factories viz, Weaving Factory, Churu Handloom Factory, Ratangarh, Handloom Factory, Dungargarh, Handloom Factory, Rajaldesar and Weaving Factory, Sardarshahr were functioning but now they have closed down.

These factories were under the control of an officer, who functioned under the Director of State Industries. These were training-cum-production centre type organisations. "In the year 1945-46 one thousand yards of fine woollen fabric and tweed and five thousand yards of other varieties of cotton and woollen cloth was manufactured. Italian type of blankets, towels, slip-overs, table cloth, bed sheets and

mufflers were also prepared in large number".¹ The trainees in these institutions were also awarded liberal stipends

POWER

One of the major handicaps in the industrialisation of the district has been scarcity of power.

Before the advent of Bhakra hydel power, there was only one thermal power house in the district located at Ratangarh. This was installed in the year 1959 with a view to ensuring regular power supply to the water works as the Bikaner power house which was supplying power to Ratangarh, Sardarshahr, Sujangarh and Churu sustained serious damage and went out of order. This power house was closed down in 1960, when the hydro-electric power began to be supplied to the district through the Bhakra Hydel system which is now the only source of supply of electricity in the district. The work of Bhakra Hydel system was started during the Second Plan period. Electric Supply of Rajasthan from Bhakra Nagal Grid was to be received at two points, one of which is Rajgarh in Churu district. The work of Bhakra Nagal Project was taken up under three schemes viz, common pool works, bulk supply scheme and local distribution scheme. Under common pool works, the Hansi-Rajgarh line 132 of kv (74 kilometres) was completed in 1959-60. Under the bulk supply scheme, Rajgarh-Ratangarh line of 132 kv (100 kilometres) and the Ratangarh-Bikaner line of 66 kv (132 kilometres) were completed during 1959. The sub-station Rajgarh was completed and energised in April, 1960.

Electricity for industrial use is available at all the 11 municipal towns and in nearly all the Villages having a population of 3,000 or above.² The list of electrified towns and villages is available at appendix I. The number of domestic consumers rose from 3,317 in the year 1960-61 to 9,999 in the year 1965-66, and that of industrial consumers from 151 to 546 during the same period. The category-wise sale of electricity is given as follows.³

1 *Annual Administration Report of Bikaner State, 1945-46*

2 Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Jaipur

3 The information about the consumers, length of transmission lines and sales of electricity pertains to Churu and Ratangarh divisions of the Board of Electricity Rajasthan which cover almost the entire Churu district including certain areas of neighbouring districts excluding small portion of Churu district

| Category | Sales during (Million Kilowatt) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1961-62 | 1962-63 | 1963-64 | 1964-65 | 1965-66 |
| 1 Domestic and heat power | 0 056 | 0 136 | 0 179 | 0 075 | 0 156 |
| 2 Domestic light and fan | 0 769 | 0 977 | 1 393 | 1.198 | 1 341 |
| 3 Commercial heat and power | 0 377 | 0 432 | 0 592 | 0 164 | 0 566 |
| 4 Commercial light and fan | 0 327 | 1 295 | 0.663 | 0 995 | 1 136 |
| 5. Low and medium volt industries | 1 078 | 2 061 | 2 194 | 3 078 | 2 988 |
| 6 High volt industries | — | 0 053 | 0 217 | 0 058 | 0 610 |
| 7 Public lighting | 0 260 | 0 127 | 0 427 | 0 513 | 0 349 |
| 8 Irrigation | 0 072 | 0 144 | 0 145 | 0.193 | 0 228 |
| 9 Public water works | 0 632 | 0 707 | 0 989 | 0 433 | 1 323 |
| 10 Others | 2 692 | 2 545 | 0 313 | — | — |
| Total | 6 263 | 8 177 | 7 117 | 6 707 | 8 697 |

MINING

The district is not rich in minerals. Copper, gypsum, soap-stone, quartz, felspar, lime stone, sand stone, granite and salt petre are, however, found here in small quantities. A description of these minerals is given below.

COPPER—Occurrences of copper were known in Dariba-Bidasar area as early as 1753 A.D. This place is located at about 28 kilometres north-west of Sujargarh Railway Station. The deposits are said to have been worked by the State of Bikaner and also by M/s Bird & Co of Calcutta. The old workings are almost filled up with blow sand and dump material except for a few small exposures of chloritic Phyllite. Copper mineralisation has been found along with the joint planes and foliation planes. Recently this area was investigated by the Geological Survey of India but nothing encouraging came to light, as a result of which further investigations were discontinued. Stray occurrences of copper are also noted at Ghantial, located about 5 kilometres from Bidasar. Copper mineralisation are found in an isolated hill about three kilometres west of Biramsar village in Ratan-garh tahsil. There are several old pits and adits, some of which have reached a depth of about 3-4 metres. Malachite Carbonate of copper

is found in the sheared zone of sericite quartz schists and Chloritic Phyllite. No investigation of this area has been attempted so far.

GYP SUM—Since long this mineral has been used for plaster buildings and as a fertilizer in rural areas. The gypsum deposit near Taranagar was found in 1953, which extends over 104 sq kilometres towards north-east and south-west of Taranagar. Besides, gypsum deposits are located in Bhulan, Bhanio, Bhadi, Baen Dergarhia Jagasani and Santhoon villages, most of which are near Taranagar. The thickness of gypsum bed is less than a metre and the gypsum equivalent varies between 70 to 78 per cent.

MAGNESIUM LIME STONE - Small isolated exposures of magnesium lime stone are found in remote parts of Rajgarh, Dungargarh, Taranagar and Churu. These deposits are not of much economic significance.

BUILDING STONE—Building stone deposits are found at Bidasar and Jilli villages in Sujangarh tahsil. The stone found in Bidasar sand stone quarries is whitish red in colour and medium grained. These quarries have been developed in the plots of 15 × 15 metres. The stone is mainly used for building as slabs and ashlers. Jilli sand stone quarries are situated about 0.2 km (one furlong) in north-west of Jilli village. The stone taken out from these quarries simply caters to the local demand.

ROAD METAL—Road metal is obtained from Randhisar, Gopalpura and Biramsar. Randhisar is an isolated hill located about 0.8 km (half mile) north of Randhisar village of Sujangarh tahsil. The stone is being worked out by two license holders as well as by other contractors on short term permits. The material is being used for the construction of National Highway 11 and other roads. No work is being done at present in Gopalpura quarries. Stone found at Biramsar consists of quartzite schist and phyllites which is being used for road construction.

JHARA STONE—It is a variety of lime concretions and nodules, spread over vast area in the district. It is used in buildings and to some extent in the construction of *kuchcha* roads.

RED STONE—Red stone quarries are situated near Khari-Dulmera. The stone obtained from these quarries is of excellent quality and very suitable for building purposes. Some of the buildings are made of this stone.

BRICK EARTH--Good clay suitable for the manufacture of bricks occurring in the form of small pockets is available at every place in the district

SALT--Salt is manufactured out of saline water which is available here in plenty Captain P W Powlett in the *Bikaner State Gazetteer 1870-75* says, "The lake of Chhapar in Sujangarh district is the principal source of salt in Bikaner It is about two miles wide by 6 miles long but it is very shallow and almost dries up before the hot weather begins The salt produced from this lake is of very inferior quality valued at about half the price of Sambhar salt It is only eaten by the poor and used for curing skin and other anti-septic purposes The yield at Chhapar is about ten thousand maunds" The production of salt during 1963-64 1964-65 and 1965-66 from this lake was 0.6, 1.5 and 8.4 thousand tonnes respectively

LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

A good number of industrialists of the country hail from this area but there being hardly any prospects for industrial development, large scale industry is non-existent in the district

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

Small scale industrial units have started coming into existence recently as a result of intensive efforts made under Rural Industrialisation Schemes, of Five Year Plans These are mostly engaged in the manufacture of soap, *bidi*, furnitures, confectioneries, *khandsari*, match-boxes, *durry* and *niwar*, light chemicals, etc The list of industries covered under Factories Act, 1948 and persons employed therein as on 31-12-1966 is given in Appendix II.

Categorywise description of the important industries is given below .

SOAP INDUSTRY--Demand for soap has considerably increased in recent years due to rise in the standard of living of the people in the district Most of the soap produced here is consumed locally

BIDI INDUSTRY--This industry is located at Sujangarh, Churu Ratangarh and Sardarshahr. In view of the fact that *bidi* has almost replaced *hukka* which is becoming obsolete, there is much scope for the development of this industry

FURNITURE INDUSTRY—Furniture industry has come into prominence in recent years due to increase in the number of educational institutions and other departments in the district. Most of the units are located in towns of Churu, Sujangarh, Sardarshahr and Ratangarh. The raw material is mostly imported from outside as local timber is not very suitable for the purpose, however in villages, *Rohida*—a local wood is used by the manufacturers. The common articles of furniture manufactured are cots (*Charpais*), tables, chairs, desks, almirahs, stools, boxes, benches and black boards. The quality of furniture is quite good so far as durability is concerned but the finish is not of as good quality as is available in big towns.

CONFECTIONERY—There are 10 units which are engaged in the production of confectionery items in the district, most of these are situated in Sujangarh, Sardarshahr and Ratangarh towns. The biggest confectioner of the district is M/s Prem Chand Lakhman Dass of Sujangarh manufacturing biscuits, cakes and bread, etc.

PRINTING PRESSES—The press has contributed to the cause of public education in the district to a large extent. All the presses are located in the towns. The names of presses and their addresses are given in Appendix III.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Besides, the small scale industries, a few cottage industries also exist in the district. Categorywise description of these industries is given below.

SPINNING INDUSTRY—Spinning is an art, acquired by females in their young age. In villages, the girls are given training in spinning and the spinning wheel is found in almost every home. This industry employs a large number of persons in the off season. Raw cotton is imported as it is not grown in this district.

WEAVING INDUSTRY—This industry is spread all over the district and is carried on by weavers who are found almost in every village. They are illiterate and carry on the work with primitive methods at their own houses. Important varieties of cloth prepared are *Reza*, towels, *dhoties* etc.

LEATHER INDUSTRY—Most of the persons employed in this industry belong to the *chamar* community. Approximately one-third

of hides and skins are converted into good leather by local tanning. The *kikar* bark, *kharcera* bark and *beri* roots are some of the important tanning materials that are locally available and are used for the purpose

ROPE INDUSTRY—Rope making industry depends on the supply of local raw materials such as *sarkanda* and *Pani* stalks. The ropes are prepared for domestic use in the villages but some of the produce from the villages located near the towns, is sold in the neighbouring markets

CHUNDRI DYEING AND PRINTING INDUSTRY—This industry is mostly confined to Churu, Rajgarh, Rajaldesar, Ratannagar and Ratangarh towns. The *Bandhai* (tying) wages are different for different *odhnis* and vary according to the quality of work. There is demand for the rough and cheap *chundries* in rural areas, but fine and superfine *odhnis* are prepared by women in urban areas. These are also exported in large quantity to the Punjab, Delhi and neighbouring districts specially Ganganagar. Costly and fine *chundries* are sent to Calcutta, Bombay and other towns where *marwari* families live in large numbers.

WOOL INDUSTRY—Blankets, *dhabla* (Petticoat), *lois* and *chadars* are the important woollen products of this district, which are manufactured in the villages by the weavers.

POTTERY INDUSTRY—Most of the persons engaged in this industry belong to the *Kumhar* community, who manufacture pots of various varieties and designs such as water pots, flower pots, jugs, jars etc. The water pots of Ratangarh are well known throughout the district for their cooling quality.

METAL INDUSTRY—This is an indigenous industry whose main products are iron pans, nails and *chulas*. Iron pans are manufactured at Churu and Sujangarh. Iron water tanks are prepared at Rajgarh.

GHEE INDUSTRY—With plenty of milk available, *ghee* making has been an important cottage industry, though it has suffered a set back due to continuing conditions of draught and scarcity of water and fodder for the cattle during the last few years. *Ghee* is usually prepared from the mixture of cow, buffalo and sheep and goat milk.

SMITHY—Gold and silver smiths are found in all big villages and towns, who prepare gold and silver ornaments on order. This industry has suffered a big set back due to the Gold Control Order which restricts making of pure gold ornaments.

SHOE INDUSTRY—This is a traditional industry of this area pursued by *Mochis* and *Chamars*. Shoes prepared in towns are of finer quality as compared to those prepared in villages. Shoes prepared in villages are of crude shape but very durable.

With a view to creating co-operative agro-industrial economy, the Planning Commission launched a scheme for intensive development of small industries in rural areas in 1952 under which Rural Industrial Project, Churu was started in the year 1963. A rapid survey for assessing the existing as well as potential resources of the area with special reference to village industries which can develop in this area has been conducted under this project.

Industrial Co-operative Societies

The co-operation in industrial field was introduced in the district after the formation of Rajasthan. Better performance of industrial co-operative societies encouraged many persons to initiate work on co-operative basis. A list of industrial co-operative societies functioning in the district is given in Appendix IV. There were 73 industrial co-operative societies on 30.6.1966 having a membership of 1,757, a share capital of Rs 1,64,000, working capital of Rs 4,36,000 and reserves and other funds Rs 2,000. The societies produced and sold goods worth Rs 2,71,000 and Rs 2,03,000 respectively during the year 1965-66.

Industrial Potentials

As stated earlier there is not much scope for the industrial development of the district. However, the district has the potential for the development of following industries on small scale or as cottage industries:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Agro-based | (i) Food processing |
| | (ii) Guar-gum |
| | (iii) Oil crushing |
| | (iv) Paper pulp |
| 2. Forest based | (1) <i>Tat patti</i> |
| | (ii) <i>Mudha</i> making |

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 3 Live-stock based | (i) Bone crushing (ii) Leather and leather products (iii) Wool carding (iv) <i>Namda</i> making (v) Wool spinning and allied industry (vi) Dairy farming (vii) <i>Ghee</i> |
| 4. Mineral based | (i) Lime burning (ii) Gypsum plaster, boards etc (iii) Stone grits and ballasts (iv) Chalk and Crayon (v) Salt from brine and salt refining |
| 5 Demand based | (i) Soap making (ii) Powdering of chillies and other spices. (iii) Ready made garments (iv) Confectionary and biscuits (v) <i>Nimar</i> and <i>durry</i> (vi) Tin containers (vii) Taps and bath room fittings (viii) Building hardware (ix) Bakelite electrical accessories (x) Chaff cutters (ix) Bucket and other metal sheets utensils (xii) Paints and varnishes (xiii) Barbed wire (xiv) Rubber and plastic insulated cables |

State Assistance

The development of industrial resources of the then State of Bikaner received high priority in the year 1942-43 and arrangements for the import of improved machinery and training facilities were made. A Five Year Programme of development and industrialisation with an outlay of about rupees three crores, was launched by the State in the year 1945-46. Power loom factory of M/s Sagarmal Swaroop Chand at Sardarshahr known as Ganesh Weaving Works and Handloom Factory at Churu were established during the year 1945-46. Seth Dharmpal Singh Kothari was permitted to start factories at Churu and Ratangarh and he was granted monopoly for a period of four years.

The assistance given by the State before merger was only nominal and in the form of exemptions from payment of customs, grant of monopolies, allotment of land at concessional rates etc.

Since the formation of Rajasthan and with the commencement of the Second Five Year Plan a number of facilities for the development of industry in the form of financial assistance by grant of loans and subsidies, and availability of cheap power, have been provided. During the Second Five Year Plan the rate of power per unit was reduced to 9 paise per unit for existing and proposed textile, ceramic, glass, cement, engineering, sugar, metal industries based on minerals and any other industry approved by the Government. In respect of small scale industries consuming power less than 10,000 units the rate was reduced from 19 paise to 12 paise per unit. Lands at concessional rates in the declared industrial areas were made available by the Government. Import facilities were also provided to the small scale industries by grant of import license for the required raw materials, machinery and spare parts which could not be obtained from indigenous sources.

The loans advanced during the First, Second and the Third Five Year Plan periods by the Government to the industrial units and craftsmen (including industrial co-operative societies) were as follows.

| Year | Loans advanced (Rupees) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1950-51 to 1955-56 | 8,600 |
| 1956-57 | 3,000 |
| 1957-58 | 25,000 |
| 1958-59 | 46,000 |
| 1959-60 | 36,000 |
| 1960-61 | 19,000 |
| 1961-62 | 14,000 |
| 1962-63 | 3,000 |
| 1963-64 | 5,000 |
| 1964-65 | 2,000 |
| 1965-66 | 6,000 |

Industrial Training Institute

The Directorate of Technical Education, Rajasthan, started an Industrial Training Institute in the year 1963-64 to impart training to the electricians, fitters, carpenters, wiremen, radio-mechanics, turners,

welders etc Eighty nine persons were given training by this Institute in the year 64-65 Details of other training institutions are given in the sub-joined table *

| Training Centre | | | Intake capacity per batch | Remarks |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Cluster Type Training Centre, Churu | Carpentry blacksmithy weaving | 60 | Now closed |
| 2 | Social Welfare Centre, Churu, Sardarshahr, Rajgarh and Ratangarh | Carpentry footwear tailoring, | 90 | |
| 3 | Training Centre, Churu. | Wool weaving dyeing | 15 | |
| 4. | Training Centre, Sadulpur | Weaving | 20 | |
| 5 | Training Centre, Sadulpur | <i>Moony, ban, mudda</i> | 10 | |
| 6 | Demonstration Centre, Sadulpur | Pottery | 20 | |

Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board, Churu

The Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board was constituted in the State in 1954 with the object of providing financial assistance for developing and organising the Khadi and Village Industries such as manufacture of amber, traditional khadi, *gur*, *khandsari*, palm *gur*, hand made paper, village pottery, village oil, leather, non-edible oil, soap, bee-keeping, hand pounding of rice and flour. The aim was also to meet the problem of under employment and un-employment in the rural areas The loans advanced and subsidies given by the Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board in Churu district during 1960-61 to 1966-67 were as follows .

| Particulars | | Loan (Rs) | Subsidy (Rs) |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | Oil Industry | 1,93,271 | 6,475 |
| 2 | Leather Industry | 48,600 | 19,600 |
| 3. | Blacksmithy and carpentry | 2,500 | 3,500 |
| 4. | Pottery Industry | 30,500 | 2,950 |
| 5. | Soap Industry | 12,250 | 5,550 |
| 6 | Match Industry | 5,400 | 3,600 |

1 Rural Industries project Officer, Churu

Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes and complaints is very negligible because the number of working class people in the district is very small. The relations between employers and employees are cordial in general. Whatever complaints are reported, relate to increase in wages, leave, fixation, outstanding dues, employment conditions etc., During the year 1965-66 two disputes and eight complaints were registered. No accident occurred during the year 1965-66.

Labour Welfare

There is no separate labour office for the district and the Labour Office, Bikaner has jurisdiction over this district also. There is no labour welfare centre in the district.

For the factories covered under the Minimum Wages Act, there are three categories viz, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers whose wages are fixed Rs 100 Rs 80 and Rs. 60 respectively.

All the labour laws in force in the State of Rajasthan are applicable to this district also.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATION—The following labour organisations were working as on 31 12 1966 in the district. Their membership and date of registration are as follows :

| | Union | Date of Registration | Membership |
|---|---|----------------------|------------|
| 1 | Bijlighar Mazdoor Union, Sujangarh | 16 4 64 | 151 |
| 2 | Bhakra Vidyut Mazdoor Union, Ratangarh | 11.1 63 | 21 |
| 3 | Rashtriya Vidyut Mazdoor Union, Sadulpur | 11 11.64 | 60 |
| 4 | Municipal Board Karamchari Sangh, Dungargarh | 17 12 65 | 40 |
| 5 | Public Works Department Employees Union, Churu | 21 2 66 | 150 |
| 6 | Shri Sardul Water Supply Employees Union, Ratangarh | 30 3 66 | 22 |
| 7 | Rastriya Mahtar Mazdoor Union, Churu | 13 4 66 | 135 |
| 8 | Motor Mazdoor Sangh, Bidasar | 23 11 64 | 20 |

APPENDIX I

List of Villages in Churu District Electrified upto 31.3 1966

| S No | Name of Village | Date of Electrification |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Alsar | 29.3 64 |
| 2. | Adsar | 31.3 65 |
| 3. | Aslu | 22 3.66 |
| 4. | Bidasar | Before April 60 |
| 5. | Bigga | 17.5.64 |
| 6. | Baredjsar | 23.1.66 |
| 7. | Balasar | 3.2.66 |
| 8. | Charwas | 13.2.66 |
| 9 | Churu | Before April 60 |
| 10 | Dulchasar | Before April 60 |
| 11. | Depalsar | 16.3.63 |
| 12 | Drajsar | 23.10.65 |
| 13 | Drajsar | 2.3 64 |
| 14 | Dularsar | 25.3.64 |
| 15 | Dariba | 31.3.63 |
| 16. | Dabla | 20.2.66 |
| 17 | Dadrewa | 6.3.66 |
| 18. | Dhandhu | 27.3.66 |
| 19 | Dhandhar | 29.3 66 |
| 20 | Gandhi Vidya Mandir | 1.4 63 |
| 21. | Gopalpura | 14.11.63 |
| 22 | Gogasar | 26.4.63 |
| 23. | Gajsar | 2.2.66 |
| 24. | Ghantel | 2.2.66 |
| 25. | Ghaghu | 20.3.66 |
| 26 | Gopalsar | 23.10.65 |
| 27. | Joharpura | 28.2.66 |
| 28. | Khasal | 1.4.63 |
| 29. | Richak | 15.3.64 |
| 30. | Khiwasar | 28.2.66 |
| 31. | Lacharsar | 26.4.63 |
| 32 | Loha | 22.3.64 |
| 33. | Lakhau | 31.3 66 |
| 34. | Momasar | Before April 60 |
| 35 | Merasar | 31.3.64 |
| 36 | Mandrella | 16.2.65 |

| | Name of village | Date of Electrification |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 37. | Malisar Bada | 30 3.66 |
| 38. | Meghsar | 31.3 66 |
| 39. | Nosania | 11.2.66 |
| 40. | Parsneu | Before April 60 |
| 41. | Parihara | 21.1.62 |
| 42. | Payli | 26.2 65 |
| 43. | pulasar | 21.1.66 |
| 44. | Ratangarh | April 60 |
| 45. | Randhisar | 28 4 63 |
| 46. | Ratannagar | Before April 60 |
| 47. | Rajaldesar | April, 1960 |
| 48. | Rajgarh | 4 4 60 |
| 49. | Ranasar | 3.2 66 |
| 50. | Sardarshahr | April, 60 |
| 51. | Chandhiwa | April, 60 |
| 52. | Sujangarh | April, 60 |
| 53. | Satra | 8 7 64 |
| 54. | Dungargarh | April, 60 |
| 55. | Senua | 15 12 65 |
| 56. | Salasar | 24 3.66 |
| 57. | Somasī | 20.3.66 |
| 58. | Sarsar | 30.3 66 |
| 59. | Taranagar | 15.10 66 |
| 60. | Thelsar | 3 3 63 |
| 61. | Talchharsan | April, 60 |
| 62. | Udasar | 28 2 66 |

Source - Executive Engineer, Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Churu

APPENDIX II

**List of Factories under Factories Act, 1948
as on 31-12-1966 in Churu District**

| Name and address of factory | persons employed |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 Rajasthan Oil and Dal Industries Dungargarh | 10 |
| 2 Timber Supplies, Dungargarh | 3 |
| 3. Vishwa Karma Wood Work, Ratangarh | 2 |
| 4 Vishwa Jyoti Press, Ratangarh | 10 |
| 5. Sadhna Press, Ratangarh | 5 |
| 6. Surya Press, Ratangarh | 8 |
| 7. Choth Mal Todı Saw Mills, Sujangarh | 3 |
| 8. Bhimla Kumar Bansalı Saw Mills, Station Road, Sujangarh | 3 |
| 9. Matalia Brothers, (Ara Machine), Station Road, Sujangarh | 4 |
| 10. Sahkari Printers, Naya Bazar, Sujangarh | 5 |
| 11. Rajasthan Printers, Sujangarh | 4 |
| 12 Rajasthan Engineering Works, Dungargarh | 6 |

Source Chief Inspector, Factories and Boilers, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

APPENDIX III

List of Printing Presses in Churu District as on 31 12 1966

| S No | Name of the Press | Place of situation |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Surya Press | Ratangarh |
| 2. | Khetan Press | Sujangarh |
| 3 | Vishwajyoti Press | Ratangarh |
| 4. | Parmanand Printing Press | Churu |
| 5. | Krishna Printing Press | Churu |
| 6 | Sadhan Press | Ratangarh |
| 7. | Narain Press | Churu |
| 8. | Yugcharan Press | Rajgarh |
| 9. | Durga Printing Press | Sardarshahr |
| 10. | Goyal Printing Press | Sadulpur |
| 11 | Mahabir Printing Press | Sujangarh |
| 12. | Prakash Printing Press | Sardarshahr |
| 13. | Rajasthan Printers | Sujangarh |
| 14. | Delux Printing Press | Sadulpur |
| 15. | Sharda Mudranalaya | Ratangarh |
| 16 | Trivedi Press | Sardarshahr |
| 17. | Hanuman Printing Press | Churu |
| 18. | Bhagirath Prasad Printing Press | Churu |
| 19 | Sarswati Printing Press | Churu |
| 20 | Akhand Rajasthan Press | Ratangarh |
| 21. | Tilak Press | Ratangarh |
| 22 | Vinod Printing Press | Sardarshahr |
| 23 | Rajasthan Press | Sujangarh |
| 24 | Sadarshahr Printing Press | Sardarshahr |

Source Chief Inspector, Factories and Boilers, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

APPENDIX IV

**Industrial Co-operative Societies in Churu District
as on 30.6 1966**

| Sub-Division | Name and address |
|--------------|--|
| Ratangarh | 1. Hundera Khadi Udyogik Society, Hundera |
| | 2. Lodasar Kargha Vastra Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Lodasar |
| | 3. Ridi Ghani Tel Utpadak Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Ridi |
| | 4. Bigga Hath Kargha Vastra Society Ltd , Bigga |
| | 5. Dying & Printing Works Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Sujangarh |
| | 6. Ratangarh Adarsh Khal Utpadak S S Ltd , Ratan- garh |
| | 7. Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd., Ratangarh |
| | 8. Ratangarh Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd , Ratangarh |
| | 9. Rajaldesar Chamra Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Rajaldesar |
| | 10. Dungargarh Chamra Utpadak S S. Ltd., Dungar- garh |
| | 11. Sujangarh Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd Sujangarh |
| | 12. Sujangarh Chamra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Sujangarh |
| | 13. Bidasar Chamra Utpadak S S. Ltd., Bidasar |
| | 14. Sujangarh Nagar Utpadak S S Ltd , Sujangarh |
| | 15. Rajaldesar Tel ghani Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Rajaldesar |
| | 16. Dungargarh Ghani Tel Utpadak S S Ltd., Dungar- garh |
| | 17. Ratangarh Deepshalaka Utpadak S S Ltd , Ratan- garh |
| | 18. Sujangarh Rang Utpadak S S. Ltd., Sujangarh |
| | 19. Sujangarh Bhawan Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Sujangarh |
| | 20. Sujangarh Bidi Utpadak S S Ltd , Sujangarh |
| | 21. Ratangarh Int Bhatta Utpadak S S Ltd , Ratangarh |
| | 22. Rajaldesar Utpadak Sahkari Samiti Ltd , Rajaldesar |
| | 23. Sujangarh Ghani Tel Utpadak S S Ltd , Sujangarh |
| | 24. Bidasar Tel Ghani Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Bidasar. |
| | 25. Parihara Tel Ghani Utpadak S S Ltd , Parihara |
| Churu | 26. Bhajusar Upadhiyan Vastra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Bhajusar |
| | 27. Vayala Vastra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Vayala |
| | 28. Bardasar Kapra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Bardasar |
| | 29. Jaitsar Jute Utpadak S S. Ltd , Jaitsar |
| | 30. Furniture Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Jaitsar |

| Sub-Division | Name and Address |
|--------------|---|
| | 31 Sardarshahr Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd., Churu |
| | 32 Sardarshahr Tannery Utpadak S S. Ltd , Churu |
| | 33 Churu Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 34 Raidas Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 35 Churu Khal Shodhak S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 36 Deegwal Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd., Churu |
| | 37 Churu Chamra Paduka S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 38 Alwaria Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 39. Churu Ghani Tel Utpadak S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 40 Sardarshahr Ghani Tel Utpadak S S. Ltd , Sardarshahr |
| | 41. Furniture Utpadak S S. Ltd , Churu |
| | 42 Krishi Yantra Utpadak S S Ltd., Churu |
| | 43 Kumbha Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Churu |
| | 44. Akhadya Tel Sabun Utpadak S S. Ltd , Churu |
| | 45 Rajgarh Bhatta Utpadak S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 46 Churu Nagar Utpadak S S. Ltd , Churu |
| | 47 Churu Mahila Kuteer Udyok S S Ltd , Churu |
| | 48 Sardarshahr Mahila Kutir Udyog S S. Ltd , Sardarshahr |
| | 49 Resha Udyog S.S Ltd., Churu |
| | 50 Churu Kuteer Udyog S S Ltd., Churu |
| | 51 Churu Int Bhatta Utpadak S S. Ltd , Churu |
| | 52 Churu Printers Publishers Co-operative Society, Churu |
| | 53 Mehtar Chamra Utpadak S S. Ltd , Churu |
| Rajgarh | 54 Berasar Chhota Kumhar Bastu Utpadak S.S Ltd., Berasar Chhota |
| | 55 Bhami Manji Krishi Yantra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Bhami Manji |
| | 56 Sankhu Chamra Utpadak S S. Ltd , Sankhu |
| | 57 Jaman Milhi Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd., Jaman Milhi |
| | 58 Hamirwas Chamra Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Hamirwas |
| | 59 Taranagar Chamra Utpadak S S Ltd., Taranagar |
| | 60. Rajgarh Chamra Utpadak S.S. Ltd , Rajgarh |
| | 61 Rajgarh Khal Shodhak S S Ltd , Rajgarh |
| | 62. Rajgarh Charam Paduka S S. Ltd., Rajgarh |

| Sub-Division | Name and Address |
|--------------|--|
| | 63. Taranagar Ghanī Tel Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Taranagar |
| | 64. Rajgarh Loha Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Rajgarh |
| | 65. Rajgarh Krishi Yantra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Rajgarh |
| | 66. Rajgarh Furniture Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Rajgarh |
| | 67. Sadulpur Munj Mudha Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Sadulpur |
| | 68. Taranagar Khal Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Taranagar. |
| Ratangarh | 69. Soodasar Jute Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Soodasar |
| | 70. Aubsar Hath Kargha S.S. Ltd., Aubsar |
| | 71. Nakrasar Hath Kargha Vastra U.S. Ltd., Nakrasar |
| | 72. Dungargarh Hath Kargha Vastra Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Dungargarh |
| | 73. Salasar Int Bhatta Utpadak S.S. Ltd., Sujargarh. |

S S = Sahkari Samity

Source : Registrar Co-operative Societies, Rajasthan Jaipur.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Historical Aspect

The Maheshwaris should be considered as the pioneer money lenders who came to Bikaner with Rao Bikaji, the founder of the Bikaner State. Their ancestor, Seth Salaji Rathi accompanied Rao Bikaji on his expedition of conquest as ration supplier, cashier and money lender of the Rao's troops. The original tribes who inhabited this area were Jats, Johiyas and Saraswat Brahmins. Money lending business was done by the people of *Brahmin, Zamindar and Bania* communities on individualistic lines and there was no organisation within themselves or for the State as a whole to co-ordinate and regulate their business operations and activities. The methods employed were generally hereditary and were carried from father to son. These money lenders were scattered throughout the length and breadth of this area and were engaged besides, their main profession, also in purchasing, storing and selling goods either on their own account or on commission basis on account of their clients. They used to provide financial facilities to the merchants, traders, cultivators and artisans.

As life and property were safer in the State of Bikaner and it has grown into a flourishing business centre, *Agarwals, Oswals, Saraogis and Modis* migrated from Meerut, Saharanpur, Ambala, Multan, Osian, Rewari, Rohtak and other adjoining places and settled here. People of these communities still live in great number in their original homes. These merchants established themselves at different places where they could find shelter in times of trouble. Many of them grew wealthy and their descendants carried on extensive business in this area as well as in other parts of the country. The harmonious relations of Bikaner rulers with the Mughal kings gave further impetus to the business and the soldiers of the Mughals army used to be paid by cash orders through *marwari* bankers.

No separate account about the money lenders and indigenous bankers is available for Churu district but according to the Bikaner Banking Enquiry Committee, appointed by the then Government of Bikaner State in 1929, it was estimated that there were 4,500 indigenous

dastavez (deed), pawning of gold and silver ornaments, and on standing crops

The money lenders used to obtain money from their colleagues according to *Khata peta* and *Hath-Udhar* systems. In the *Khata peta* system the entry was made of the borrowed money in the account book (*Khata*) while in *Hath-Udhar* system, loans were raised for a very short period and the transaction was not entered in any commercial book, but was carried over as a balance and a note to this effect was made thereof.

There were two types of money lenders viz., (1) non-professional money lenders and (2) professional money lenders. The non professional money lenders such as rich cultivators, merchants, traders, pensioners, priests and jobbers etc., pursued other activities but lent out their surplus funds to their less fortunate brethren in times of need. The professional money lenders lent money regularly and had adopted money lending as a profession. The professional money lenders were few and most of them were non-professional and combined business with money lending.

There was one more class of money lenders generally consisting of *Banjaras*, *Pathans*, *Kabulis*, *Rohillas*, etc., who had their own peculiar method of working. They used to visit a village at frequent intervals and lent money or sold wares on credit to the needy and poor people. They turned the transaction into cash loan in their account books and charged very high rate of interest. They used to revisit the village during the harvest season when the crop was ready to realise their dues either in cash or took away the grain at the market rate prevailing during the harvest days. In urban areas these itinerant money-lenders advanced loans to the labourers and low-paid employees to be repaid in instalments. They were not fastidious about proper security nor they relied on the process of law for recovering the loan. They depended on their physical strength, threat and intimidation and waylaid their debtors on pay day as they came out of their place of work and collected their dues.

KHANDI—*Khandi* was another system of advancing loans. Under this system money was advanced in the multiple of Rs 10 and only in a few cases, sums over Rs 100 were advanced. The general system was to advance Rs 10 and to recover at the rate of Rs 1 per month realising Rs 12 in a year. Some *Khandiwalas* even deducted the interest

for one month or a month's instalment in advance and paid the debtor Rs 9 instead of Rs 10 recovering entire dues in further 11 months.

Various attempts were made by the then Bikaner Government to regulate the activities of the money lenders. They were required to secure licence and a ceiling on interest was imposed. They were also required to maintain proper books of accounts and rules were framed to ensure that auction of pledges was properly conducted. The Bikaner Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1920 was passed with a view to ameliorating the condition of rural population and to save them from the clutches of the money lenders. The Rajasthan Relief of Agricultural Indebtedness Act, was passed in 1957 with a view establishing Debt Relief Courts with their jurisdiction to be fixed by the Government from time to time.

The Rajasthan Money Lenders Act, 1963, came into force with effect from 1 10 1965, providing better provisions for the regulation and control of transactions of money lending in the State of Rajasthan.

INDEBTEDNESS—Indebtedness has been an acute economic and social problem among the rural population since long and it is beyond their control.

For generations the cultivators have been accustomed to a ceaseless struggle to manage a bare livelihood from their insufficient income and have been facing calamities from flood, famine and epidemics. The average farmer labours neither for profit nor for a net return but for subsistence as a way of life. The pressure of population on land, the lack of alternative jobs and the early age at which he is burdened with responsibilities combine to compel the cultivators to borrow money. The old social customs to which the villagers cling, drain their resources which are already quite inadequate. It is responsible, for his hereditary indebtedness which generally goes on increasing.

The debts are taken for the following purposes :

I. Agricultural purposes .

1. **SHORT TERM**—For purchase of seed, manure and fodder, payment of wages, land revenue and rent, and other current expenses.

2. **MEDIUM TERM**—For purchase of lives-stock, building and other land improvements, repair of wells and other irrigation equipment,

agricultural implements, machinery and transport equipment, farm houses and cattle sheds, laying of new orchards, etc

3 LONG TERM—For purchase of land, reclamation of land, construction of wells and irrigation facilities and other capital expenditure etc

II Non-farm business purposes .

1 SHORT TERM—For repairs of production equipment, transport equipment and furniture and fixtures

2 LONG TERM—For purchase of production and transport equipment and furniture and fixtures

III Consumption purposes :

1 SHORT TERM—For purchase of domestic utensils, cloth, medical treatment expenses, meeting educational expenses and other expenditures

2 LONG TERM—For purchase, construction and repairs of residential and other houses, for performing death ceremony, marriage and other ceremonies, for litigation expenses.

IV Repayment of old debts

V Other Purposes

Purchase of bullion and ornaments, postal savings certificates and shares of joint stock companies.

The Bikaner Banking Enquiry Committee (1929-30) conducted an enquiry into agricultural indebtedness in tahsil Sujangarh and non-agricultural indebtedness in the villages, Dariba, Sujangarh and Chhapar of Churu district According to the findings of this committee, the volume of agricultural indebtedness came to about Rs 174 00 per head while that of non-agricultural indebtedness came to about Rs 290 00 per head

The Reserve Bank of India undertook a Rural Credit Survey which included all strata of the rural population and covered problems of capital formation in the rural areas as well as the requirements of farmers Churu was one of the six districts included in the survey of Rajasthan The table given below indicates the average debts for cultivating and non-cultivating families in Churu district in 1950-51 ¹

¹ *All India Rural Credit Survey of the Committee of Direction*, Vol I, PP 20, 40, and 54

(Rupees)

| Credit Agency | Average debt per | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| | Cultivating family | Non-cultivating family | family |
| Total debt | 248 | 12 | 223 |
| (i) Government | — | — | — |
| (ii) Banks | — | — | — |
| (iii) Relatives | 28 | — | 25 |
| (iv) Land lords | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| (v) Agriculturist money lenders | 2 | — | 2 |
| (vi) Professional money lenders | 129 | 2 | 116 |
| (vii) Traders & commission agents | 5 | — | 5 |
| (viii) Others | 78 | 5 | 70 |

General Credit Facilities

The other credit institutions in the district at present may be broadly classified under the following groups :

- (i) Joint Stock Banks
- (ii) Co-operative Credit Societies
- (iii) Financial Corporations
- (iv) Government

Joint Stock Banks

The first step for the development of joint stock banks was taken in the year 1904-05 by the then Bikaner State (comprising of present Bikaner, Ganganagar and Churu districts) by introducing the Savings, Bank Act No V of 1873 in the State. It was in the year 1927-28 that a scheme of starting a Savings Bank was introduced and the Bikaner State Savings Bank was opened on 17.12.1928. This Bank while promoting a voluntary habit of thrift also offered more lucrative rates of interest for investment than the postal Savings Bank. The scope of this bank was widened and it was allowed to finance for the development of State industries as well as for affording facilities to the general public in the conduct of daily business. In the year 1929-30 six more branches of this bank were opened, out of which four branches were in Churu district located at Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Sardarshahr and Churu. This bank made exceptionally rapid progress in short time, which was no doubt the result of the several facilities it offered to the

public in the conduct of their daily business. With a view to meeting another popular demand from commercial classes, it was allowed in the rules of the Bikaner State Savings Bank to make advances against Bikaner State loan securities and fixed deposit receipts. The bank had its own accounts in London and in principal cities of British India, and acted as correspondent for 11 banks in Europe and America and worked as collecting agent for a number of Insurance Companies of reputation. Public was allowed to deposit insurance premium in the branches of this bank free of charge.

During the year 1935-36 the scope of the bank was further widened and it was permitted to transact all descriptions of banking business with special regard to (i) savings bank accounts withdrawal by cheque once a week (ii) current accounts, (iii) fixed deposits, (iv) loans overdrafts and cash credits, (v) collections and remittances, (vi) sale and purchase of securities, (vii) safe custody of articles, (viii) letters of credit and travellers' cheques and (ix) safe deposit boxes available to public at a normal rent.

During the year 1941-42 the scope of activities of the bank was further extended and several new branches were opened. An agreement was entered into with the Government of India, under which the branches of Imperial Post Office within the State ceased to open new savings bank accounts, and all their transactions were taken over by the State. During the year 1941-42 in Churu district five more branches were started at Rajgarh, Bidasar, Taranagar (Ren), Dungargarh, Rajaldesar, bringing the total number of branches of this bank to nine.

The following table gives an account of deposits of the Bikaner State Savings Bank for six years ¹

| | | | | (Rupees) |
|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Year | Deposits | | | Total Deposits |
| | Fixed | Savings | Current | |
| 1939-40 | 1,68,23,172 | 22 09,292 | 8,99,410 | 1,99,31,874 |
| 1940-41 | 1,51,26,179 | 21,45 846 | 10 38,873 | 1,83 10,898 |
| 1941-42 | 1,50,88,103 | 24,99 553 | 21,26,526 | 1,97,14,182 |
| 1942-43 | 1,39,68,948 | 42,21,167 | 44,03,638 | 2,32,93,753 |
| 1943-44 | 66,90,217 | 65,69,522 | 8,93,868 | 1,41 53,207 |
| 1944-45 | 2,14,24,730 | 63,41 519 | 45,22,552 | 3,22,88,801 |

¹ Annual Administration Reports of the Bikaner State, 1941-42 to 1945-46

With the opening of the State Bank of Bikaner Ltd, in January 1945, the State Savings Bank stopped with effect from 1st February 1945, accepting any further deposits in the current and fixed accounts. All banking business and the treasury work of the State was entrusted to the State Bank of Bikaner Ltd, while functions of the State Savings Bank were confined only to the savings bank business. The State Bank of Bikaner took over the business of the State Bank of Jaipur on 1st January, 1963 and is now operating under the name of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, as a subsidiary of the State Bank of India under a special statute. The usual functions of the bank are receiving deposits of all kinds, discounting bills and *hundis*, advancing loans against approved stocks and shares, allowing limited overdrafts to the approved customers, transmitting funds from one place to another on behalf of the customers through bank drafts and letters of credit, purchasing and selling of shares for clients on a commission basis, keeping documents and jewellery in safe custody.

There are seven branches of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, functioning in Churu district located at Sadulpur, Sujangarh, Ratangarh, Sardarhahr, Dungargarh, Taranagar and Churu and one branch of Punjab National Bank located at Rajgarh.

Another important bank of the district is the Churu Central Co-operative Bank Ltd, Churu which started its business on 27th March 1961. A branch of the bank was opened at Ratangarh on 28.3.1966. The operation area of these two banks is the whole of the Churu district. The principal function of the bank is to provide finance to the affiliated co-operative societies. It advances loans for sowing all types of crops, agricultural operations and for purchasing cattle. The bank has not advanced any kind of loan to the individuals as yet.

Co-operative Credit Societies

The co-operative movement in the area, now forming Churu district was introduced in March 1920, when the first Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed and the Co-operative Societies Act, was passed in the erstwhile State of Bikaner. The main objects of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1920 were (1) to provide for the constitution and control of credit societies by an enactment specially adopted to their organisation and aims and (2) to confer special statutory privileges and concessions upon them with a view to encouraging their formation and assisting their operation. The first

co-operative credit society in Churu district was registered in April, 1945. On the formation of Rajasthan, this Act was repealed and Rajasthan Co-operative Societies Act, 1953 was brought into force which is regulating the whole co-operative movement of the State of Rajasthan.

The basic unit in the co-operative structure is the primary co-operative society at the village level. The activities of the primary society were formerly confined chiefly to credit operations. In recent years, however, attempts have been made to develop multipurpose societies either by encouraging existing primary credit societies to convert into multipurpose societies or by organising new multipurpose societies.

The number of different types of co-operative credit societies in Churu district along with other details as on 30.6.1966 is given below ¹

| Types of Societies | Societies (No.) | Members (No.) | Capital (Rs.) | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | | Share | Working |
| 1 Central Co-operative Bank | 1 | 340 | 7,06,700 | 31,34,391 |
| 2 Agricultural Credit Societies | 305 | 20,049 | 5,95,326 | 29,19,601 |
| 3 Non-Agricultural Credit Societies | 5 | 126 | 1,995 | 6,223 |
| 4 Primary Land Mortgage Bank | 1 | 835 | 11,390 | 77,569 |
| 5 Primary Marketing Societies | 8 | 1,299 | 1,06,604 | 3,70,225 |
| 6 Sheep Breeding Societies | 21 | 304 | 21,395 | 45,628 |
| 7. Milk Supply Societies | 1 | 11 | 560 | 571 |
| 8 Poultry Societies | 1 | 16 | 960 | 960 |
| 9 Farming Societies | 2 | 23 | 670 | 670 |
| 10 Agricultural Non-Credit Societies | 1 | 147 | 1,418 | 1,432 |
| 11 Non-Agricultural Non Credit Societies | 36 | 938 | 38,974 | 78,243 |
| 12 Central Consumer's Stores | 1 | 16 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 13 Primary Consumer's Stores | 18 | 1,385 | 36,955 | 80,639 |
| 14 Housing Societies | 1 | 15 | 1,700 | 8,200 |
| 15 Weaver's Societies | 27 | 776 | 21,440 | 27,119 |
| 16 District Institutions | 1 | 234 | — | — |
| 17. Other Industrial Societies | 80 | 1,423 | 1,63,857 | 4,36,446 |
| 18 Societies under Liquidation | 8 | 321 | 596 | 3,963 |
| Total | 518 | 20,257 | 17,30,140 | 74,64,649 |

¹ Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Churu

Rajasthan Financial Corporation

The Rajasthan Financial Corporation, headquartered at Jaipur came into existence during the year 1955-56, to provide long-term finance to the industries. From the Churu district during the period 1960-61 to 1964-65, one application for a loan of Rs. 75,000 was received by the Corporation (in the year 1961-62) from a dal Mill out of which Rs. 40,000 were sanctioned to the party. Another application was received during the year 1965-66 for a loan of Rs. 5,00,000 for establishing guar-gum manufacturing industry in the district, but nothing has been finalised so far, the matter being under the consideration of the Corporation.

Government

Taccavi and other loans are made available by the Government through Revenue and other development departments like Agriculture and Development.

General and Life Insurance

The following Insurance Companies were functioning in the erstwhile State of Bikaner serving the area now forming part of Churu district :

- 1 Empire of India Life Insurance Co. Ltd
- 2 Lakhmi Insurance Co. Ltd
- 3 Agarwal Assurance Society Ltd
4. Bombay Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd
- 5 National Insurance Co. Ltd
- 6 The Sunlight of India Insurance Society Ltd
- 7 Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Co. Ltd
- 8 Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd
- 9 Asian Insurance Society Ltd
- 10 The Bharat Insurance Co. Ltd

Since nationalisation, Churu district for purpose of life insurance is being served by the Ajmer division of Northern Zone of Life Insurance Corporation of India. General insurance business, however, has been left to the private agencies. Some of the insurance companies serving the district are General Assurance Society and South India Insurance Company which deal in fire, marines, accident, workmen, compensation, machinery erection and miscellaneous (burglary and theft etc.)

Prior to the year 1960 there was no independent office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in Churu district and the entire area was under the control of Bikaner office. In 1960 an office of Development Officer was opened at Churu, which in course of time was upgraded as a sub-office and finally in February, 1966 it was raised to the status of a Branch office. The number of Agents and Development Officers in Churu district was 228 and 10 respectively as on 31.3.1967. The nature of business carried on is two-fold. Life insurance business on monopoly basis and general insurance business (fire, marine, motor and accidents etc.) on competitive basis with private insurers. The number of policies issued and sum assured during the year 1965-66 were 1,894 and Rs. 119.39 lac respectively.

State Life Insurance Scheme was introduced in the year 1927-28 in the erstwhile State of Bikaner. It was designed as compulsory but was kept optional for two years (the period was extended one year more) so that the benefits of this may be visualised by the employees themselves. Later on, the scheme was thrown open to the general public. There being no profit motive, the rates of premium under this scheme were appreciably lower than those of any private company of repute. The amount of premium paid to the State Insurance Department was exempted from all taxes. There was also a provision of advancing loan to the insured person in case of need. The policies were inalienable and could not be attached in the execution of decrees of Civil Courts or in realisation of the State claims.

In the year 1963, when the State of Rajasthan was formed the compulsory Insurance Scheme of the erstwhile Jaipur State was extended throughout Rajasthan. This scheme was implemented in three stages, in the first phase it was extended to all the permanent employees drawing a pay of Rs. 51 per month or more. In the second phase all the permanent employees drawing Rs. 35 per month or more were asked to join the scheme and in the third phase the scheme was thrown open to all the permanent employees of the State. The first, second and third phases were implemented on 1st February, 1954, 1st June, 1955 and 1st September, 1956 respectively. The scheme was made applicable to the employees of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads with effect from 2nd October, 1959 but later on withdrawn on 1st February, 1962. In 1959, the scheme was also made applicable to the temporary employees of the State Government who had put in at least one year of service with the exception of those who were not likely to be made permanent in the opinion of their drawing officers.

In 1965, this scheme was made applicable to all the temporary State employees who had put in six months of service. Two types of insurance policies are issued, one under the endowment plan and the other under the whole life plan

In Churu district, State Insurance Office was established in the year 1954 with an Insurance Assistant as its head. Now three Insurance Assistants are working there under the supervision of a Insurance Supervisor posted at Ganganagar. During the year, 1965-66 there were 4,567 policies in force and Rs. 2,93,376 were received as premium in Churu district. Number of claims paid were 10 due to death, 36 due to maturity and 26 due to paid up policies for which Rs. 12,028, Rs. 28,830 and Rs. 8,068 were paid respectively.

NATIONAL SAVINGS—As already stated, Small Savings Movement was started in the erstwhile Bikaner State of which Churu district was a division when the Bikaner State Savings Bank was opened on 1-7-1928. Before the year 1948, the administrative control of the working of the small savings scheme in the princely State was with the then ruler of the State. A whole time officer was appointed to look after the work of small savings in March 1947, for the Bikaner State, who augmented the sale of National Savings Certificates. The State employees drawing salaries of Rs. 125 per month or above were made to subscribe to the Government of India Defence Loan Bonds or Defence Savings or National Savings Movement with effect from 1st October, 1943. The rates of subscription were as given below

| Salaries (Rupees) | Subscription (Percentage) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 125-325 | 5 |
| 326-625 | 7 |
| 626-1000 | 10 |
| 1000-1500 | 12 |
| Over 1500 | 15 |

Authorised Agents were appointed for the sale of National Savings Certificates on 2½ per cent commission by the National Savings Adviser during the year 1948.

A District Organiser for Churu was appointed in 1956 to implement the Small Savings Scheme in the district and measures like training camps of extra departmental branch, appointment of postmasters as Agents, launching of Savings drives, and issue of letters

and personal approaches to the Government Departments, local bodies requesting them to intensify the savings were taken

The collections made during the period 1960-61 to 1965-66¹ are given below

(Rs in '000)

| Year | Postal Certificates | | 10 years Defence Deposit Certificates | | Post Office Savings Bank | | Cumulative Time Deposit | |
|---------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Net sales | Gross sales | Net sales | Gross sales | Net sales | Gross sales | Net sales | Gross sales |
| 1960-61 | 476 | 369 | 50 | 50 | 522 | 88 | 6 | 6 |
| 1961-62 | 428 | 345 | — | — | 388 (-) | 133 | 13 | 13 |
| 1962-63 | 203 | 138 | 2 | 2 | 424 (-) | 54 | 23 | 23 |
| 1963-64 | 150 | 46 | 6 | 6 | 391 (-) | 39 | 35 | 35 |
| 1964-65 | 550 | 443 | 4 | 4 | 518 | 141 | 41 | 37 |
| 1965-66 | 96 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 598 | 111 | 44 | 37 |

(-) means more withdrawals than deposits

During the year 1965-66 a net collection of Rs 1 30 lac was also made under the Provident Fund Scheme

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

The Bikaner mint was opened by the Maharaja Gaj Singh, who obtained a *sanad* from the Emperor Alamgir II, A D 1754-1759 (Aziz ud-din-Muhammad) to mint currency² It was claimed by the Bikaner Officials that this privilege was granted in Samvat 1809 (A D 1753) but no record is available to substantiate this claim. William Wilfrid Webb is of the opinion that coins were struck only after the year 1759, the first year of Shah Alam's reign All the coins of the State were struck in the name of Shah Alam till, 1859 when this was replaced by the Queen of England

Each chief adopted a different symbol to distinguish his coin from the others These symbols were as follows :

1 For Gaj Singh a *Pataka* or flag

2 For Surat Singh a *Trisul* or trident

1 Director, National Savings, Rajasthan, Jaipur

2 William Wilfrid Webb *Currencies of the Hindu States of Rajputana*, p 56

3. For Ratan Singh a *Kirania* or turban-star.
- 4 For Sirdar Singh a *Chhata* or umbrella
- 5 For Dungar Singh a *Chauri* or fly-whisk
6. For Ganga Singh a *Morchhal* or peacock-feather

Gold coins were never struck in the State, but each prince issued silver and copper coins. The mint always remained at Bikaner.

The rulers did not issue coins but merely kept the *sikka* or die. When the *sahukars* (merchants) or other people wished to have coins manufactured they used to bring their silver to the mint after getting it purified. For every rupee which weighed 10 *mashas*, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ *mashas* of silver had to be provided. The saving of $\frac{1}{4}$ *mashas* of silver in every rupee was used for payment of wastage in melting, custom duty, cleaning charges, assaying and weighing charges, etc.

There was no mint in Churu district and the coins struck at Durbar mint Bikaner were in circulation here.

As per agreement under the Native Coinage Act, 1876, 10 lac of Bikaner rupees were made legal tender by being recoinced at Bombay in 1893 and copper coins were struck for the State at Calcutta mint in 1895 and were put into circulation. The ruler abstained as per agreement from minting coins in his mint for a period of thirty years.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Much of the prosperity of the area is due to *Banyas* (traders) born in the area who go all over India and beyond its borders to engage in trade. These traders keep up connection with their villages and return from time to time in search of health to marry their children and for rest and recreation when they have accumulated wealth. Many of them maintain fine houses in the villages and keep their families there when they go great distances in search of business and this benefits the district enormously as much money earned abroad is sent into it.

Imports

The main items of imports are rice, wheat, tobacco, sugar, cotton, textiles, vegetable oils, gold, silver, cement, agricultural implements, pesticides and insecticides, salt, toilet articles, tea, coffee and coal etc.

Exports

Items of exports are wool, hides, skins, bones, gypsum and agricultural produce which are exported to Delhi, Bengal, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Madras and Andhra Pradesh.

Markets

No market in Churu district has so far been regulated although two markets viz, Sardarshahr and Sadulpur have been notified for the purpose under the Rajasthan Agriculture Produce Market Act, 1961. Sujangarh, Churu and Sadulpur (Rajgarh) are important *mandis* of the district of which the last is the biggest. It is situated at a distance of 61 kilometres by road and 96 kilometres by railway from Churu. *Bajra, jwar, moong, moth, chawla, gwar, wheat, gram, barley, til, rape* and mustard etc., are important commodities. There are 118 market functionaries including 20 wholesale traders, 20 commission agents, 28 retail traders and 50 weighmen and *hammals*.

There are about 50 godowns owned by traders and merchants. The capacity of godowns ranges from three hundred bags to five hundred bags. The charges are 6 paise per bag per month. There are no storage facilities provided by the Warehousing Corporation of Rajasthan. The commodities are sold by open system and auction system.

The Marketing Officer, Directorate of Agriculture Rajasthan, conducted a survey in Sadulpur (Rajgarh) and Sardarshahr *mandis*. According to this survey, the average annual arrivals of agricultural commodities for the year 1964-65 were as under.

(Quintals)

| Commodity | Arrivals at <i>mandis</i> | |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | Sardarshahr | Sadulpur (Rajgarh) |
| 1 Wheat | 30,000 | 13,000 |
| 2 Ghee | 1,100 | — |
| 3 Gram | — | 37,000 |
| 4 Bajra | 20,000 | 10,000 |
| 5 Sarson | — | 500 |
| 6 Wool | 700 | — |
| 7 Rice | 3,000 | 2,000 |
| 8 Gwar | 30,000 | 15,000 |
| 9. Moong | — | 9,000 |
| 10 Moth | 20,000 | 12,000 |
| 11 Til | 3,000 | 1,000 |

The export trade has grown steadily after the introduction of faster means of transport and communication.

Vendors come from the surrounding areas to sell food-stuffs, utensils, camel saddles and general merchandise including buttons, soaps, garlands and other petty items of general use. These, however, are not very important from the point of view of trade.

STATE TRADING—There is no State Trading in its strict sense in the district. During the Second World War period the normal channels of trade were disturbed and the prices of various commodities witnessed a rising tendency. The then ruler of the Bikaner State made efforts and issued various orders viz., Foodgrains Control Order, 1942, the Foodgrains future and Options Prohibition Order, 1942, the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943, to maintain a proper balance in supply and prices of essential commodities. The Bleaching Powder and Chlorine Control Order, issued by the Government of India was, *mutatis-mutandis* brought into effect in Bikaner State (of which Churu was a part) on 17-7-1943. The Woollen Goods Control Order was promulgated in 1945.

At present also, some sort of control is maintained over the distribution of some commodities. There were 15 fair price shops on 31-12-1966 in Churu district of which 9 were owned by co-operative societies and six by private parties.

Weights and Measures

Captain Powlett in *Bikaner State Gazetteer* says "The seer of the city and towns and the *tola* and *masha* are three-fourths the British weights of the same name. The *kos* is two thousand *paundas* or double paces of about five and a half feet each. The *bigha* is seventy cubits square feet"

In order to bring uniformity in weights and measures and to check fraud, the then Government introduced the Bikaner State Weights and Measures Act, 1934. According to this Act, standard of weights for gold and silver was called *tola* which was equal to 12 standard *mashas* of British India. Primary standard of weights except for gold and silver was *seer* which was equal to 80 *tolas* of British India. Standard yard of British India was adopted as standard yard. One third and one thirty sixth of this yard was adopted as standard foot and standard inch respectively.

For measures of capacity, a measure containing one such *seer* of water at its maximum density weighed in volume was a standard measure.

Standard models of each weight and measure (duly approved by the Government) were kept in the office of the Tahsildar or at such other place as directed by the Government for determining the standard. Use of un-registered or non-standard weights and measures was punishable with fine upto Rs 50 for the first offence and Rs 100/- for every subsequent offence. Inspectors were appointed for enforcement, stamping, registering and certifying weights and measures.

The Bikaner State Marketing of Weights on Heavy Packages Act, 1940 was introduced on 12th December, 1940. According to this Act, gross weight of any package or object of 1000 tons or more meant for transport was to be written plainly and durably upon it. In exceptional cases where it was difficult to determine the exact weight, approximate weight was marked over the package. The Railways were under obligation to see that gross weight of the package is written over it before accepting it.

Various types of weights and measures were in vogue in princely States at the time of their merger. After the formation of Rajasthan, the Government passed the Weights and Measures Act, 1954 which was implemented from September 1955. Under this Act, weights and measures were standardised and *seer, maund etc* became uniform in whole of the territory of Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan adopted the metric system of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958. In Churu district metric weights were introduced from 1-4-1960 and capacity measures from 1-4-1962. Linear measures were introduced with effect from 1st October, 1961 and their use was made compulsory after 1st October, 1962. Wide publicity was organised by the Industries Department to acquaint the public with the new system of Weights and Measures and dealers were granted licences liberally for the sale of metric weights and measures. Steps were taken to establish laboratories and to provide trained staff to ensure the implementation of metric weights and measures in the district. Offices of Weights and Measures Inspectors are located at Sardarshahr, Churu, Ratangarh and Sujangarh and the laboratory is located at Ratangarh. At district level the work is looked after by the Project Officer Rural Industries, Project Churu.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Old Routes

No authentic and precise information regarding old routes in the district is available. But from the available records it can be inferred that during the princely rule, little attention was paid to the development of roads and communications. There was not a single good road worth the name. A few that existed were mere pack-bullock and camel paths. The principal means of transport, in olden days, were camels, bullock-carts and pack donkeys.

The important trade routes were :

- 1 From Patun to Bikaner via Ratangarh,
- 2 From Fatehpur to Bikaner via Bidasar,
- 3 Ratangarh to Bikaner,
- 4 Ratangarh to Nohar,
- 5 From Delhi to Rajgarh via Bhiwani in Hissar, and
- 6 Bikaner to Bhiwani via Sardarshahr and Taranagar (Reni)

Till about the beginning of the present century the important roads which passed through the district were 1. Degana (Nagaur district) to Nohar (Ganganagar district) via Sujangarh, Randisar, Ratangarh, Ranasar, Merasar, Sardarshahr, Gajusar and Aspalsar. 2 Ramgarh (Sikar district) to Bhadra (Ganganagar district) via Ramsar, Churu, Indoopur, Chalkai and Taranagar (Reni) 3 Bikaner to Taranagar (Reni) via Togawas, Gudila, Sardarshahr, Barisawai, Bandnaki, Surjansar, Udrasar, Delewa and Binjasar 4 Ratangarh to Sirsa (Punjab) via Sardarshahr and Nohar 5 Jaipur to Bhadra via Rajgarh and Sahwa.

On all these routes camels, camel-carts and bullock-carts were the common means of journeys and transportation. The carts in use on these sandy tracks had to be of rough and ready type capable to stand the rough runs. They were designed in such a way as to facilitate

loading and were sometimes given respectable appearance by fixing a *charpai* (bedstead) on the board and throwing a canopy of cloth over it, shaped like a dome or two, supported on slender wooden poles. The well-to-do used sophisticated carriages. Camels, camel-carts and bullock-carts are still the only means for journeys from rural areas to *mandis* and other urban areas and in inter-rural transport mainly on account of existing *kuchcha* and sub-standard roads unsuitable for any other transport. The fast moving vehicles cannot ply on these primitive routes. Moreover, there exists a certain relationship between the distance travelled and the mode of transport. Camels, camel-carts and bullock-carts are in more prominent use over a travel distance of say 32 km (20 miles) and for longer distances trucks are more popular for which, shorter haulage is not economical. For this reason even on good roads intra-*mandi* transport movement is generally handled by non-mechanical means of transport. These means of transport viz., camels and bullocks are used for various other purposes like ploughing, water-lifting, cart pulling, carrying fertilisers and manures to fields and produce from farm to store house. The additional expenditure in maintaining camel and bullock-carts is not much and in fact it is the cheapest means of transport available to an average agriculturist. The bullock and camel carts may continue to occupy an indispensable place in the rural economy of the district, while they may lose ground to trucks in *mandis* and market centres which are better connected by good roads. Trucks are increasing fast in number and handle a major amount of long distance road traffic. Carts will only be ousted with larger land holdings, better roads, increase in cash crops and higher per capita income of the average farmer.

PRESENT FACILITIES

Roads

The desert conditions such as large deposits of sand and shifting dunes in most parts of the district as also the low economic potentiality of the area, have hampered the development of roads in the district. Since the First Five Year Plan, there has been an increased emphasis on the development of roads, and the State Government have started works relating to construction, improvement, upgrading, repair and maintenance of roads as also construction of bridges and culverts. A marked improvement has been observed quantitatively as well as qualitatively in the roads of the district during the last decade.

The length of roads¹ in Churu district at the end of the First, Second and the Third Five Year Plans are given in the following table:

| Category | Road length (in kilometers) at the end of | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|---------|
| | 1955-56 | 1960-61 | 1965-66 |
| 1. Painted | 37 | 261 | 489 |
| 2. Metalled | 352 | 296 | 282 |
| 3. Gravelled | — | — | — |
| 4. Fair weather | 167 | 217 | 103 |
| Total | 556 | 774 | 874 |

National Highways

National Highways have been defined as main highways serving predominantly National, as distinct from State purposes, running through the length and breadth of India, which together form a system connecting (by routes as direct as practicable) major ports, foreign highways capitals of States, including highways required for strategic movements for the defence of India. They are maintained by the State Public Works Department and funds are made available by the Central Government. The Bikaner-Agra road (National Highway No 11) is the only National Highway passing through the Churu district. Starting from Bikaner, this highway traverses the total distance of 528 km. through the four districts of Rajasthan viz, Churu, Sikar, Jaipur and Bharatpur. It enters in Churu district near village Seruna (Dungargarh tahsil) and traverses the district for a distance of about 113 km, the terminal point of this road in the district is near village Biramsar from where it goes to Fatehpur in Sikar district. The important places of Churu district falling on this highway are Dungargarh, Rajaldesar, Bigga and Biramsar.

State Highways

State Highways have been defined as all other main trunk or arterial roads of a State linking with National Highways or State Highways of adjacent States, District headquarters and important cities within the State, and serving as main arteries of traffic to and

¹ *Five Year Plans Reports of Rajasthan*—Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

from district roads. These roads are generally metalled and are completely motorable throughout the year, except that sometimes where there are causeways or submersible bridges, traffic may be interrupted during monsoon for very short periods. State Highways usually have connections with National Highways. These are also constructed by the State Public Works Department but the cost is met out of State funds. The length of State Highways in the district as on 31.3.66 was 387 km of which 199 km was black-topped and remaining 188 km was metalled road. There are four State Highways which pass through the district. Ladnun-Pallu road passes through Sujangarh, Ratangarh and Sardarshahr. The second road, Dungargarh to Juma travels through Sardarshahr, Taranagar (Ren) and Rajgarh. The third road Nokha to Salasar passes through Jasrasar, Bidasar and Sujangarh and the fourth one Rajgarh to Pillani travels through Harpalu and Chandgoti in the district.

Major District Roads

Major District Roads are roughly of the same specifications as State Highways. These roads connect important marketing centres and are constructed, maintained and financed by the State Public Works Department. The total length of these roads in Churu district as on 31.3.1966 was 74 km of which 53 km was black-topped and 21 km metalled. The Major District Roads are 1. Bhaleri to Jhunjhunun via Bissau, 2. Ratangarh to Rajgarh via Churu, 3. Taranagar to Bhadra via Sahwa and 4. Sardarshahr to Narsro via Maliksar.

Other District Roads

Other District Roads are also of the same type as Major District Roads except that they are subject to more frequent interruptions of traffic during the rains. They also serve market places. These are generally unmetalled and have 'water-bound' surface. These are also constructed, maintained and financed by the State Public Works Department. The total length of these roads as on 31.3.1966 was 141 km of which 98 km is black topped and remaining 43 km metalled.

Village Roads

The total length of the Village Roads (Fair weather) in the district as on 31.3.1966 was 103 km, which are mostly *kuchcha*. These roads are not motorable throughout the year.

The position of roads as per Nagpur classification as on 31.3.1966 was as under:

| Category | Length in km | | | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| | Black topped | Metalled | Fair weather | |
| 1. National Highways | 113 | — | — | 113 |
| 2. State Highways | 199 | 188 | — | 387 |
| 3. Major District Roads | 53 | 21 | — | 74 |
| 4. Other District Roads | 98 | 43 | — | 141 |
| 5. Village Roads | 25 | 31 | 103 | 159 |
| Total | 488 | 283 | 103 | 874 |

Vehicles and Conveyances

In the rural areas, the chief means of transport are camels, bullock-carts, camel-carts and tongas, particularly for short distances. In urban areas, due to the development of roads buses and other faster means of transport are being increasingly used

MOTOR VEHICLES—The number of motor vehicles on road during the last decade is given at Appendix I. It will be seen from the data given there that the number of vehicles has increased to 723 in 1966 from 448 in 1957. The private cars and jeeps which were 256 in 1957 increased to 292 in 1966 recording a rise of 14 per cent in the last decade. These are owned by the upper stratum of society which comprises of big cultivators, high officials, traders and industrialists. Contract and taxi carriages which were 3 in 1957 increased to 7 in 1966. They are confined to the district headquarters and towns. Private buses which numbered 32 during 1957 have decreased to 14 in 1966. These are maintained by industrialists and various institutions, who have started using buses now. Auto-rickshaws are becoming the common means of conveyance in places which are connected by good roads. Fares fixed by the municipalities are 16 paise per kilometre for a two seater and 24 paise for a seven seater rickshaw. But in most cases customers are charged more than the fixed rates.

Public Transport

No route in the district has so far been nationalised and only private buses ply in the district. There were 72 stage carriages during the year 1957 which have increased to 147 in the year 1966.

Bus routes registered with the Regional Transport Authority, Churu during 1966 are given in Appendix II. There were 41 bus routes in the district during the year 1966 on which public buses were plying.

Goods Carriers

There were 138 goods transporting vehicles in the district during 1966 of which 105 were public and 33 were private carriers. Public carriers are used for carrying foodgrains and other goods on Government account as also general goods on public accounts. The private carriers are owned by private parties such as contractors etc., who use them for carrying building and other construction material to the site of the works.

Among the other hire carriages, bullock-carts, tongas, camel-carts and man-driven carts (*Thelas*) are the most popular means of transport. The number of bullock or buffalo-carts and tongas was 465 and 137 respectively in Rajgarh, Bidasar, Rajaldesar, Churu and Sardarshahr municipalities during the year 1965-66. There were 180 camel-carts during 1965-66 in Bidasar, Rajaldesar, Sardarshahr and Churu municipalities.

Due to lack of good roads, the bicycle is not in much use. Only a few persons use cycle in the urban areas.

Fares and Freights

The Government of Rajasthan in 1951 fixed¹ the maximum fares and freights to be charged by the Stage carriages and Public carriers. The maximum fare which could be charged per 1.6 km (per mile) per passenger for a single journey by the Stage carriers was 8 pies, 11 pies, and 4 pies for 'A' class, 'B' class and 'C' class routes respectively. These rates were revised with effect from 4-4-1966 and were as follows:

1 'A' Class route

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Ordinary | 15 paise per km. per passenger |
| (b) Express Mail | |

1 Notification No. R D /10495/T C/50/XX dated the 29th March 1951, under the Rajasthan Motor Vehicles Act, (Adoption) Ordinance, 1950.

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|--|
| A | Class | route | means | Cemented, tarred or metalled road |
| B | " | " | " | Gravelled or <i>kankar</i> road |
| C | " | " | " | All tracks, fair weather and other roads not included in A and B class of routes |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|---------------|---|
| (i) First 100 km. | 2 0 paise | per km | per passenger | |
| (ii) Beyond 100 km | 1 5 paise | „ | „ | „ |
| 2 'B' Class route | 2 0 paise | „ | „ | „ |
| 3 'C' Class route | 2 5 paise | „ | „ | „ |

These rates are subject to condition that minimum fare charged would be for 10 km. Prior to 1966, maximum permissible freight to be charged for carrying load per single trip were 1.5 paise (3 pies), 2 paise (3½ pies) and 2.5 paise (5 pies) per mile or per 1.6 km for 'A' class, 'B' class and 'C' class roads respectively. These have been revised by the Government¹. Freight to be charged for carrying load per single trip are 2.7 paise, 3.2 paise and 4.5 paise per quintal per kilometre respectively for 'A' class, 'B' class and 'C' class routes.

Road Accidents

In a district like Churu with a few roads and not many vehicles plying on them, road accidents are not common. The following are the number of accidents on road, persons killed and injured, and number of vehicles involved during the last decade ²

| Year | Accidents | Persons killed | Persons injured | Vehicle involved |
|------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1957 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 1958 | 16 | 3 | 31 | 18 |
| 1959 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 1960 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 19 |
| 1961 | 14 | 6 | 50 | 17 |
| 1962 | 12 | 4 | 15 | 4 |
| 1963 | 8 | — | 7 | 8 |
| 1964 | 14 | 2 | 7 | 13 |
| 1965 | 19 | 3 | 12 | 16 |
| 1966 | 23 | 9 | 23 | 23 |

Railways

The first railway line in the district was Degana (Nagaur district) to Hissar (Haryana State), the first section of which, Degana to Sujargarh was opened on 16-9-1909 and the remaining portion,

1 Notification No F 1 (9) (19) H B/Gr 165 dated 22-8-1966

2 Source *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, yearly volumes, 1958 onwards

Sujangarh to Hissar on 8-7-1911 This project although initiated by the erstwhile State of Bikaner was a joint venture of erstwhile State of Bikaner and Jodhpur. The railway line from Degana to Bikaner frontier (near Sujangarh) was constructed by the Jodhpur State whereas the line from Sujangarh to Hissar was constructed by the Bikaner State

The Bikaner-Ratangarh chord line opened for traffic on 24-11 1912, linked the two important systems of Bikaner Railway running practically north and south in the central and eastern parts of the State and provided direct connection between Bikaner and the important towns of Churu, Sardarshahr, Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Rajgarh (Sadulpur)

The Ratangarh-Sardarshahr line 43 km (27 miles) in length, projected in 1914, with a view to linking up the second most important district town of the State with railway was opened for traffic on 1-3-1916

The chord line from Hanumangarh to Rajgarh (Sadulpur) on Degana-Hissar section of Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, 169 km (105 miles) in length was a local line, designed to pass through the most thickly populated and fertile tracks of the north-eastern parts of the Bikaner State This was opened for traffic in three stages, portion of Hanumangarh to Nohar having been opened on 15-7-1927 Nohar-Bhadra section on 15-7-1928 and Bhadra-Sadulpur section on 13-11-1930

The administration of the Bikaner Railways was separated with effect from 1-1-1924 from the joint management of Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway system with a view to bringing efficiency and economy in the working

The chord line 139 km (87 20 miles) in length from Sadulpur to Rewari was sanctioned for construction in March 1937 Sadulpur-Loharu section of this line 50 km (31 miles) in length was opened for traffic on 12-12-1938, and the complete chord line from Sadulpur to Rewari on 1-3-1941 The distance between Sadulpur and stations falling towards Delhi was reduced by 72 km (45 miles) after the introduction of this track

The district is now served by Western Railways and Northern Railways

WESTERN RAILWAYS—A metre gauge railway track from Churu to Sikar via Fatehpur Sekhawati, 91 km. in length serves the district for a distance of about 12 km. Bissau and Churu junctions are the two railway stations falling on this track in the district. Four passenger trains run on this track daily.

NORTHERN RAILWAYS Degana-Ratangarh line, 153 km in length, passes through the district for a distance measuring 45 km. Sujangarh, Tal Chhappar, Parihara, Loha Halt and Ratangarh are the railway stations on this track in the district. Two mail trains and two passenger trains run on this track daily.

Branch line, Sardarshahr to Ratangarh, 48 km in length passes through Udasar, Dulrasar, Khilerian, Melusar, Golsar, Nosaira and Ratangarh west railway stations. Four passenger trains run on this route. The Sadulpur-Hanumangarh branch line, 198 km in length starts from Sadulpur runs to north and then takes a north-west direction to reach Hanumangarh. The length of this line in this district is only 19 km. The railway stations falling on this route in the district are Sidhmukh, Hansiawas and Narwari. Four passenger trains run on this route.

Among all the routes of the district, the Delhi-Bikaner route measuring about 240 km within the district is the longest. It passes through Rajgarh, Churu, Ratangarh and Dungargarh tahsils of the district. It enters the district at Parvezipur and leaves it at Belasar. Four mail trains and three passenger trains run on this route. The stations falling on this route are Pervezipur, Rampura, Beri, Harpalu, Sadulpur, Hadyal, Molisar, Ratangarh west, Ratangarh Junction, Rajaldesar, Parsneu, Bigga, Dungarpur, Banisar, Sudsar and Belasar.

There are four railway junctions in the district viz., Sadulpur, Churu, Ratangarh west and Ratangarh. There is no facility for retiring room at any of the stations of the district. However, light refreshment rooms and book-stalls have been contracted out at all the four stations. Water coolers have been provided at Ratangarh and Churu in addition to a drinking water hut at each of the stations in the district. The total length of the railway track in the district is 316 km, and the district is well connected with Bikaner, Jodhpur, Sikar, Jaipur, Jhunjhunun, Ganganagar, Hissar and Delhi.

The railways play an important role in the economic life of the district by exporting surplus commodities and importing deficit commodities. Water for drinking purposes is also transported to scarcity areas in rail-borne tanks. The rigours of frequent famines have greatly been minimised on account of speedy despatch of relief to the affected areas.

Waterways

In the absence of rivers and canals there are no waterways in the district.

Air Transport

There is no air service to the district. No landing grounds are maintained either by Civil or Military authorities.

TRAVEL FACILITIES

DHARAMSHALAS—There have been *dharamshalas* and *sarais* for long where lodging and other facilities are available. There are sixty-nine *dharamshalas*, some of which are very comfortable and provide electric light and water facilities and bed-steads etc., on nominal charges. The list and addresses of these *dharamshalas* are given at Appendix III.

REST HOUSES AND DAK-BUNGALOWS—There are seven rest-houses and dak-bungalows in the district, maintained by the Public Works Department of the State. They are meant chiefly for the use of Government employees on duty who are required to pay 50 paise and Re 1/- in winter and summer respectively. Others are also given accommodation if it is available, but they are charged Rs 3 00 per day per head as rent. Information about rest-houses in the district and facilities available there is given below :

| Location of Rest-house | No of rooms | Remarks |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 Sujangarh | 4 furnished rooms | Electrified |
| 2 Ratangarh | 4 furnished rooms and one dinning hall | „ |
| 3 Sardarshahr | 4 furnished rooms and one dinning hall | „ |
| 4 Taranagar (Reni) | 2 furnished rooms and one dinning hall | „ |
| 5 Rajgarh | 5 furnished rooms and one dinning hall | „ |
| 6 Churu | 7 furnished rooms and one dinning hall | „ |
| 7 Dariba | 2 rooms | Not electrified |

HOTELS—There are only a few small hotels and eating houses which provide Indian meals. But there is not a single hotel serving western dishes.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES

POST OFFICES—Before the introduction of the Imperial Postal Unity, the erstwhile State of Bikaner had its own postal system. Captain Lurton says that postal runners called *Kasids* were employed for carrying dak which was mostly official. Camels were used for long distances and short distances were covered on foot. Sometimes two *Kasids* used to run together to ensure safety of dak delivery. But *Kasids* used to be employed also by the wealthy and well-to-do. This practice continued till the late 19th century. A couple of Imperial Post Offices were opened during the last quarter of the 19th century. The Imperial Postal Unity Scheme was introduced on 1-1-1904 in the former State of Bikaner, of which Churu was a part. During the year 1904 there were 10 post offices in the area now forming Churu district located at Dungargarh, Bidasar, Sujargarh, Rajaldesar, Ratangarh, Churu, Reni (Taranagar), Rajgarh, Sardarshahr and Chhapar. During 1908-09 the Imperial Postal Department opened a main line between Lunkaransar and Sardarshahr and mails were carried by camel *sawars* who were paid by the Postal Department.

The district has made considerable progress in respect of post offices during the last decade. There were 62 post offices during 1956-57. The number increased to 224 during the year 1969. The list of post offices is given at Appendix IV.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES—In April, 1895 steps were taken to connect Churu with Sikar by a telegraph line through Fatehpur. It was opened in January, 1896. It was also proposed to extend the Imperial Telegraph System from Fatehpur to Sardarshahr via Ratangarh, and the line was opened during the year 1896-97. With a view to ensuring communications beyond the border of the State in the event of breakdown of ordinary channels of communications, a wireless station was established in Bikaner in March, 1932 which was connected with the wireless stations functioning at the district towns of which Churu was one. The wireless station located at Sardarshahr was extensively used during the year 1935-36 when there was a Cholera epidemic. There were 10 telegraph offices during the year 1965-66. Keeping in view the work load, the Sikar Division was created on 20.8.1966 and Churu

district which was under the jurisdiction of Bikaner Division was transferred to Sikar Division

TELEPHONE FACILITIES—During the year 1965-66 there were 3 Telephone Exchanges and 9 Public Call Offices. The Ratangarh Telephone Exchange was opened during the First Five Year Plan while the Sujangarh and Churu Exchanges were opened during the Second Five Year Plan. Capacity of Churu Telephone Exchange was 100 lines while that of Ratangarh and Sujangarh was 50 lines each. The number of working connections at Churu, Ratangarh and Sujangarh were 64, 36 and 32 respectively and the number of direct Trunk connections were 4, 8 and 6 respectively. The details of Public Call Offices are given in the following table.

| Location of Public Call Office | Capacity of Board (lines) | Direct Trunk connections | Connections |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Ramgarh | 10 | 1 | 3 |
| Bissau | 10 | 1 | 4 |
| Taranagar (Reni) | 10 | 2 | — |
| Sadulpur | 20 | 1 | 18 |
| Sardarshahr | 20 | 1 | 11 |
| Rajaldesar | 10 | 1 | — |
| Chhapar | 20 | 1 | 6 |
| Bidasar | 20 | 1 | 6 |
| Ratannagar | Boardless | 1 | — |

Radio Stations

There is no Radio Broadcasting Station in the district. The nearest Radio Station is at Bikaner which is an auxiliary station of All India Radio and broadcasts the programme of Jaipur Radio Station.

CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS—During the year 1965-66 there were four transport co-operative societies having 90 members in the district viz, 1 Ex-Soldiers Transport Co-operative Society, Churu; 2. Transport Co-operative Society, Churu; 3 Yatayat Sahkari Samiti, Taranagar and 4 Transport Co-operative Society, Rajgarh. These are operating on four routes covering a length of 336 km. The working and the share capital of these societies was Rs 11,000 and the total membership was 90 as on 30.6.1966.

APPENDIX I

Motor vehicles on roads in Churu district

| Year | Private Cars & Jeeps | Private Buses | Motor Cycles, Taxis & Cycle Rickshaws | Contract & Taxi Carriages ; | Stage Carriages | Public Carriers | Private Carriers | Tractors | Others | Total |
|------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| 1957 | 256 | 32 | 14 | 3 | 72 | 63 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 448 |
| 1958 | 262 | 32 | 15 | 3 | 78 | 65 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 471 |
| 1959 | 263 | 32 | 15 | 3 | 81 | 68 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 480 |
| 1960 | 293 | 17 | 15 | — | 114 | 84 | 8 | 18 | — | 549 |
| 1961 | 296 | 16 | 16 | — | 114 | 86 | 11 | 21 | — | 560 |
| 1962 | 300 | 13 | 17 | 7 | 125 | 73 | 11 | 24 | — | 570 |
| 1963 | 248 | 14 | 19 | 7 | 129 | 74 | 12 | 27 | 59 | 589 |
| 1964 | 260 | 14 | 21 | 7 | 136 | 79 | 13 | 32 | 59 | 621 |
| 1965 | 277 | 14 | 26 | 7 | 141 | 94 | 26 | 33 | 59 | 677 |
| 1966 | 292 | 14 | 32 | 7 | 147 | 105 | 33 | 34 | 59 | 723 |

Source *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, yearly volumes, 1958 onwards.

APPENDIX II

Bus routes in Churu district as on 31.12 1966

| Sl No | Name of route |
|-------|---|
| 1. | Dungargarh-Kaloo, Lunkaransar via Dungargarh city, Gusaisar, Loresa, Adsaria |
| 2 | Sujargarh-Lalgarh via Khanpur Ladhu, Suneri, Theerkate, Lakhinsar, Jalap, Bhasena, Kherjora, Nakasar, Kalyansar, Goyalsar |
| 3 | Churu-Sardarshahr via Dudva, Mehta, Kharwhi, Balasar, Udair, Palasar |
| 4 | Bidasar-Sardarshahr via Dariba, Charwas, Chhapar, Lohar, Ratangarh, Hudera, Station Gogasar, Malasar, Rattawas, Merasar, Barodasar, Jiwandesar, Gandhi vidya Mandir |
| 5 | Ratangarh-Momasar |
| 6 | Churu-Bissau, Jhunjhunu via Khasoli, Malisar, Alsisar |
| 7 | Churu-Mundawa via Bissau |
| 8 | Churu-Bissau, Jhunjhunu via Kulaton-ki-Dhani, Bijani. |
| 9 | Sadulpur-Jhunjhunu via Lanipur, Bewasar, Sankhu, Malsisar, Alsisar |
| 10 | Ratangarh-Fatehpur via Toliisar, Biramsar, Kiransar |
| 11 | Churu-Ramgarh via Ratannagar |
| 12 | Sujargarh-Salasar via Mengina, Lodsar, Dhan, Bhimsai, Parwatsar |
| 13 | Churu-Malsisar via Bissau, Alsisar, Gopalsar |
| 14 | Sadulpur-Jhunjhunu via Mandela |
| 15 | Nokha-Sujargarh via Savalsar, Himatsar, Kater, Udsar, Jasrasar, Sandwa, Bidasar, Chirwas, Chhapar, Talohasar |
| 16 | Sadulpur-Taranagar via Dadrewa, Sardarshahr |
| 17 | Taranagar-Sardarshahr via Buchas, Togas, Balchin, Malusar, Naitsar, Udsar, Sadulpur |
| 18 | Sadulpur-Pilani via Rudura, Barpal, Hamirwas, Lal Singhwas, Chandkali, Thapoli Badi |
| 19 | Bidasar-Taliyasar |
| 20 | Sardarshahr-Rawatsar via Dhannasar, Baramsar, Purabsar, Pallu, Birsasar, Sadasar, Bhojrasar, Haryasar |

52/2/8

| Sl No | Name of route |
|-------|--|
| 21 | Rajgarh-Hissar via Hunpa |
| 22 | Nokha-Napasar |
| 23 | Churu-Maheri via Gudsar, Ghantel, Samsi, Charamwara. |
| 24 | Sardarshahr-Nohar |
| 25 | Sujangarh-Fatehpur via Hemasar, Malsar, Malisar, Charian, Khuri, Malasi, Chachiwas, Khusi Budi and Chhoti |
| 26 | Sujangarh-Nagaur via Ladnu |
| 27. | Churu-Sardarshahr via Rampura, Randwrabas, Jasrasar, Dhanasar, Antsar, Jwadesar. |
| 28 | Sadulpur-Bhadra via Nagri, Dadrena, Mithadi, Lilki, Jigasari, Kirada, Kalana. |
| 29 | Sardarshahr-Suratgarh via Kishanpura, Semasar, Ata, Banjasar, Dhandhu, Motor, Banasar, Sukhchila, Pallu, Bhisrasar |
| 30 | Sadulpur-Sardarshahr via Taranagar, Bhaleri. |
| 31. | Bidasar-Ladnu. |
| 32. | Churu-Taranagar. |
| 33 | Sardarshahr-Ladnu. |
| 34. | Churu-Sujangarh |
| 35 | Sahiwa-Sadulpur. |
| 36 | Sardarshahr-Sikar. |
| 37. | Sardarshahr-Jhunjhunu. |
| 38. | Bidasar-Momasar. |
| 39. | Sidhmukh-Tosana |
| 40. | Sujangarh-Wanaghuna via Ratangarh. |
| 41 | Dungargarh-Momasar, Sardarshahr, Bikaner. |

Source A sistant Regional Transport Officer, Bikaner.

APPENDIX III

Dharamshalas in Churu district as on 31 12 1966

| Sl No | Name and address of Dharamshala |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Fatehpurian ki Dharamshala, near Railway Station, Rajgarh |
| 2 | Teek Manian ki Dharamshala, near Railway Station, Rajgarh. |
| 3 | Podar Dharamshala, near Railway Station, Rajgarh. |
| 4 | Shri Bhagatmal Serwani Trust, Bidasar |
| 5 | Shri Kaloo Ram ji Tanti ki Dharamshala, Bidasar |
| 6 | Shri Shiv Narain ji Tanti ki Dharamshala, Bidasar |
| 7 | Dharamshala, Rajaldesar |
| 8 | Dharamshala, near Railway Station Rajaldesar |
| 9 | Poorani Dharamshala, Rajaldesar |
| 10 | Chaudhary ki Dharamshala, Utrada ka Jar, Sardarshahr |
| 11 | Hisarion ki Dharamshala, near Railway Station, Sardarshahr |
| 12 | Jhalarion ki Dharamshala, near Girls' School, Sardarshahr |
| 13 | Nahato ki Dharamshala, near Railway Station, Sardarshahr |
| 14 | Soni Dharamshala, Pallu Road, Sardarshahr. |
| 15 | Tanti Dharamshala, near Tanti Well, Sardarshahr |
| 16 | Padiwalon ki Dharamshala, Mochiwada Mohalla, Sardarshahr |
| 17 | Padiwal Dharamshala, Chhapar |
| 18 | Padiwalon ki Dharamshala, Sardarshahr. |
| 19 | Lahoti Dharamshala, Chhapar |
| 20 | Nahata ki Dharamshala, near Post Office, Chhapar. |
| 21 | Padiwal Dharamshala, near Bus Stand, Chhapar |
| 22 | Moti Ram Padiwal Dharamshala, near Power House, Chhapar |
| 23 | Sravgī Dharamshala, Taranagar |
| 24 | Mantrion ki Dharamshala, Taranagar |
| 25 | Mohton ki Dharamshala, Taranagar |
| 26 | Chaudhariyon ki Dharamshala, Taranagar |
| 27 | Mantrion ki Dharamshala, Ward No 2, Churu |
| 28 | Khemkon ki Dharamshala, Ward No 2, Churu |
| 29 | Kanhaya Lal Bagla ki Dharamshala, Ward No 3, Churu |
| 30 | Chotion ki Dharamshala, Ward No 4, Churu |
| 31 | Lohion ki Dharamshala, Ward No 5, Churu |
| 32 | Padiwalon ki Dharamshala, Ward No 5, Churu |
| 33 | Luharon ki Dharamshala, Ward No 6, Churu |
| 34 | Lakhotian ki Dharamshala, Ward No 6, Churu |

| S. No | Name and address of Dharamshala |
|-------|---------------------------------|
|-------|---------------------------------|

- 35 Goyanka kī Dharamshala, Ward No. 7, Churu.
 - 36 Dhanuka kī Dharamshala, Ward No. 7, Churu
 37. Ojha kī Dharamshala, Ward No 7, Churu.
 - 38 Sunaron kī Dharamshala, Ward No 7, Churu
 39. Sexsharion kī Dharamshala, Ward No 7, Churu
 - 40 Sunaron kī Dharamshala, Ward No 8, Churu.
 - 41 Madawalon kī Dharamshala, Ward No. 9, Churu
 - 42 Ramjus kua kī Dharamshala, Ward No 9, Churu
 43. Vedonk kī Dharamshala, Ward No 14, Churu.
 44. Brahamaanon kī Dharamshala, Ward No 15, Churu
 - 45 Teebadwalon kī Dharamshala, Ward No. 15, Churu
 - 46 Kothari Dharamshala, Ward No. 17, Churu.
 47. Saravgi Dharamshala, Ward No 18, Churu
 - 48 Goyan Dharamshala, Ward No 18, Churu.
 - 49 Baglon kī Dharamshala, Ward No. 21, Churu
 - 50 Maniaron kī Dharamshala, Ward No 21, Churu
 - 51 Chopra Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 52 Jaloria Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 53 Ladon kī Dharamshala, Railway Station. Sujangarh
 - 54 Khetan Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 55 Lalgarrh Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh.
 - 56 Bharadia Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 57 Patania Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 58 Sunaraon kī Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 59 Ramgarh Walon kī Dharamshala, Railway Station, Sujangarh
 - 60 Teekamanio kī Dharamshala, Sadulpur
 61. Dharamshala, near Railway Station, Sadulpur
 - 62 Fatehpuran kī Dharamshala, Sadulpur.
 - 63 Podar Dharamshala Sadulpur
 64. Fatehpurion kī Dharamshala, Station, Sadulpur
 - 65 Mahtav Dharamshala, Rajgarh.
 - 66 Ghavako kī Dharamshala, Rajgarh
 - 67 Rampura Beri kī Dharamshala, Rajgarh
 - 68 Sidhmukh Dharamshala. Rajgarh.
 - 69 Saravgion kī Dharamshala, Dadreva
-

APPENDIX IV

List of Post Offices in Churu district as on 31 12 1969

| Name of the Post Office | Name of the Post Office |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 CHURU HO PCO HSG | 2 Bandhanu |
| 1 Bhomasi | 3 Bhadasar |
| 2 Buntiyo | 4 Bhojusr Upadhyayan |
| 3 Dudwa Khara RS | 5 Likhmadesar |
| 4 Dudwa Khara Village | 6 Thukriasar |
| 5 Ghangu | 7. Udrasar |
| 6 Ghantel | 7 PATEL CHOWK SADULPUR |
| 7 Inderpura | ND TSO |
| 8 Jharli | 8 PARIHARA so |
| 9 Kharoli | 1 Absar |
| 10 Khiwasar | 2 Bhojasar |
| 11 Khandwa | 3 Dhanani |
| 12 Lakhan | 4 Kanwari |
| 13 Loharna Bada | 5 Khotri |
| 14. Pithiasar | 6 Kusumdesar |
| 15 Rajpura | 7 Loha |
| 16 Satyun | 8 Rajiasar |
| 17 Sirsala | 9 RAJALDESAR CSO PCO |
| 18. Sonasi | 1 Alsar |
| 2 CHURU COLLECTORATE ND | 2 Bhawandesar |
| STO | 3 Bharpalsar |
| 3. BIDASAR PCO CSO | 4 Binadesar |
| 1 Baleda | 5 Jetasar |
| 2 Dariba | 6 Jegnia |
| 4 CHHAPAR so | 7 Lachhasar |
| 1 Charwas | 8 Parsneu |
| 5 GANDHI VIDYA MANDIR | 9 Simsia |
| (SARDARSHAHR) TSO | 10 Joglia |
| 6 MOMASAR so | 10 RATANGARH CSO PCO LSG |
| 1 Adsar | 1 Daudsar |
| | 2 Dheerasar |

| Name of the Post Office | Name of the Post Office |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3. Dulrasar | 19 Kaldi |
| 4. Golsar | 20. Lakhlan |
| 5. Jasasar | 21 Lamborbadi |
| 6 Jasrasar | 22 Laseri |
| 7. Ladhasar | 23 Lilawati |
| 8. Lunel | 24. Mahlas Utrada |
| 9. Malsisar | 25 Hasal |
| 10 Nakrasar | 26 Naurangpura |
| 11 Ratansara | 27. Nuhund |
| 12. Satra | 28. Rakha Chhoti |
| 13. Sahnali Badi | 29. Rampura Beri |
| 14 Tidiasar | 30. Rawatsar Khularla |
| 11 RATANNAGAR SO | 31. Sankhu Fort |
| 1. Binasar | 32 Sulkhania |
| 2 Depalsar | 33 Suratpura |
| 12 RATANGARH RS TSO | 14. SARDARSHAHR PCO CSO |
| 13 SADULPUR CSO PCO LSG | LSG |
| 1. Bijwa | 1. Ajitsar |
| 2. Bewar | 2. Bhojasar Chhoti |
| 3 Bhinjra | 3 Bayalan |
| 4 Bhensli | 4. Bitkalsar |
| 5. Bhuwasi | 5. Dhami Pacharan |
| 6. Biran | 6. Gajusar |
| 7. Birunda Khalsa | 7. Gogasar |
| 8. Chhapra | 8. Hemusar |
| 9 Dadrewa | 9 Jaisinghsar |
| 10 Dhingi | 10 Kalyanpur |
| 11 Dokwa | 11. Karansar |
| 12. Dulpura | 12 Khejra |
| 13. Hadiyal RS | 13 Malsar |
| 14. Hameerwas | 14. Nehrasar Chhachera |
| 15. Harpalu | 15. Mehri Rajwiyar |
| 16. Jaitpura | 16. Fogan |
| 17. Janeu | 17. Poolsar |
| 18 Jhadsa Chhota | 18 Sawai Badi |
| | 19. Rajasar |
| | 20 Ramsisar |

| Name of the Post Office | Name of the Post Office |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 21. Simla | 13 Kalana |
| 22 Udasar Bidadwan | 14. Galar |
| 23 Pabusar | |
| 15 DUNGARGARH CSO | 17. SANDWA so |
| PCO LSG | 1 Parewara |
| 1 Bana | 2 Luhara |
| 2. Babau | 3 Dhaneru |
| 3 Delwan | 4 Badela |
| 4 Ghusanisar | 5. Bamboo |
| 5 Kundalsar | 6 Iniyara |
| 6 Punrasar | 7. Somasar |
| 7. Toliasar | 8. Amarsar |
| 8 Upani | 9 Jogalsar |
| 9 Bigga | 10 Lalgarh |
| 10. Dheerdesar | 18 SALASAR so |
| 11 Dulhasar | 1. Norangasar |
| 12 Godesar | 2 Badabar |
| 13 Kitasar | 3 Lodsar |
| 14 Lakhasar | 4 Bhimsar |
| 15 Bidi | 5 Kolasar |
| 16. Sanwatsar | 6 Malsisar |
| 17 Seruna | 7 Sobhasar |
| 18 Sudsar | 8 Khuri |
| 16 SIDHMUKH so | 9 Khariya Kaniram |
| 1 Bhagela | 10 Murdakia |
| 2 Narwasi RS | 11 Khinchiwala |
| 3 Narwasi Village | 12 Bhukhreri |
| 4. Paharsar | 19 SUIANGARH CSO PCO LSG |
| 5 Champura Chhota | 1 Gopalsar |
| 6 Dhingarla | 2 Kundi |
| 7 Chanau | 3 Sandhan |
| 8 Kanjan | |
| 9 Birni Khalsa | 20 SUJANGARH RS ND TSO |
| 10 Bhangarh | 21. TARANAGAR CSO PCO LSG |
| 11 Ramsara Tal | 1 Bawandi |
| 12 Annop Sahar | 2. Baleri |

| Name of the Post Office | Name of the Post Office |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Buchawas | 17 Ratusar |
| 4 Changoi | 18 Rai Tundas |
| 5 Dhaniasar | 19 Sahwa |
| 6 Dheerwas | 20. Redi Bhuras |
| 7 Dhan Kumharan | 21 Saryao |
| 8 Jhadsar | 22 Alayala |
| 9 Jodi | 23 Bhanin |
| 10 Karwas | 24 Gajuwas |
| 11 Kohina | 25. Sewa |
| 12 Mahrasar Upadhyayan | 26. Jodhra |
| 13 Nethwa | (UNDER NAGPUR HO) |
| 14. Pandreu Tiba | 1 Kanuta (Nimbi Jodha so) |
| 15. Punaras | 2 Mundara (Ladnu so) |
| 16 Punsisar | |

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 1. HO | = | Head Office |
| 2 ND TSO | = | Non-Delivery Town Sub-Office |
| 3 PCO | = | Public Call Office |
| 4 SO | = | Sub-Office |
| 5 CSO | = | Combined Sub-Office |
| 6 HSG | = | Higher Scale Grade |
| 7 LSG | = | Lower Scale Grade |
| 8 RS SO | = | Railway Station Town Sub-Office |
| 9. RS ND TSO | = | Railway Station Non-Delivery Town Sub-Office |



CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the district. According to the 1951 Census 71.4 per cent of the population was directly or indirectly dependant on it. Among the agriculturists, the largest percentage of 36.4 was that of cultivators having land wholly or mainly owned by them and their dependants. Cultivators having land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants constituted 33.6 per cent. The cultivating labourers and their dependants and non-cultivating owners formed 0.6 and 0.8 per cent respectively. Non-agricultural category comprised 28.6 per cent of which other services and miscellaneous sources formed 12.1 per cent, traders 9.6 per cent, industrialists 6 per cent and persons engaged in transport industry 0.9 per cent of the total population.

The occupational pattern of the district at the time of the Census of 1961 is shown in the following table

| Particulars | Workers | | | Percentage of total population |
|--|----------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | |
| A Workers | 1,90,855 | 1,24,719 | 3,15,574 | 47.87 |
| Cultivators | 1,46,044 | 1,14,110 | 2,60,154 | 39.48 |
| Agricultural labourers | 1,520 | 697 | 2,217 | 0.33 |
| Mining, quarrying, live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities | 1,016 | 333 | 1,354 | 0.20 |
| Household industry | 8,299 | 6,770 | 15,069 | 2.28 |
| Manufacturing other than household industry | 4,252 | 266 | 4,518 | 0.68 |
| Construction | 2,679 | 154 | 2,833 | 0.43 |
| Trade & commerce | 10,110 | 363 | 10,473 | 1.59 |
| Transport, storage and communications | 3,461 | 15 | 3,476 | 0.53 |
| Other services | 13,474 | 2,006 | 15,480 | 2.35 |
| B Non-workers | 1,49,193 | 1,94,244 | 3,43,437 | 52.13 |
| Total | 3,40,048 | 3,18,963 | 6,59,011 | |

It is evident from the above table that the working population of the district was 47.87 per cent of the total population. Of these, the largest number (83.14 per cent of working population) was dependant on agriculture working as cultivators (82.44 per cent) and agricultural labourers (0.70 per cent). The non-agriculturists formed 16.86 per cent of the working population, out of which 4.90 per cent were engaged in other services, 4.77 per cent in house-hold industry, 3.32 per cent in trade and commerce, 1.43 per cent in manufacturing other than house-hold industry, 1.11 per cent in transport, storage and communications, 0.90 per cent in construction and 0.43 per cent in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities.

The non-working population of the district was 52.13 per cent of the total population and included forced non-workers in the age-group 15-60, temporarily non-working but seeking employment.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

According to the Census of 1961, the number of persons employed or engaged in different occupations was as under

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Central Government | 24 | — | 24 |
| State Government | 217 | 6 | 223 |
| Local Government | 29 | — | 29 |
| Quasi Government | 11 | — | 11 |
| Village Officials | 251 | 14 | 265 |
| National Cadet Core | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total | 533 | 20 | 553 |

The Government is the biggest employer in the district like the State of Rajasthan and the country as a whole. The security of employment coupled with other rights and privileges which it confers on a public servant, helps in making Government or quasi-Government service attractive, though it may not be lucrative. It can be well said, that the number of public servants has increased considerably due to the establishment of new offices, educational institutions in general and more particularly due to increase in developmental and social welfare.

activities of the Government which is evident from the table¹ given below

| Category | Persons employed on | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 31 3 62 | 31 3 63 | 31 3 64 | 31 3 65 | 31 3 66 |
| 1 Central Government | 704 | 5 | — | — | — |
| 2 State Government | 2,826 | 2 926 | 3,287 | 3,705 | 3,464 |
| 3. Quasi-Government | 270 | 337 | 420 | 530 | 480 |
| 4 Local Bodies | 1,866 | 1,655 | 1,709 | 1,894 | 2,091 |
| Total | 5,666 | 4,923 | 5,416 | 6,129 | 6,035 |

The employees of the Central and of the State Governments serving in the district enjoy certain amenities and privileges like their counterparts in other districts of the State. Besides the pay, they get dearness allowance, festival advance, foodgrains advance and travelling allowance while on tour. Loans are advanced at reasonable rates of interest for construction and repairs of their own houses and for purchase of conveyance etc, which are recovered by easy instalments. Many of the gazetted and non-gazetted officers are provided Government quarters on payment of a reasonable rent fixed according to pay. Medical expenditure incurred by the Government employees either on themselves or on their families is reimburseable. All the State Government employees are compulsorily insured under the State Insurance Scheme. Pension or Provident Fund and benefits of gratuity are provided on retirement. Children of all employees who are not paying income tax are entitled to free education in Government institutions.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teachers

The number of persons engaged in educational service according to the Census of 1961, in Churu district was as follows

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| University (College) teachers | 250 | — | 250 |
| Secondary Schools teachers | 270 | 18 | 288 |
| Middle & Primary Schools teachers | 919 | 129 | 1 048 |
| Not elsewhere classified teachers | 481 | 76 | 557 |
| Total | 1,920 | 223 | 2,143 |

¹ Employment Market Reports of various years

Female teachers are 10.4 per cent of total number of teachers while male teachers are 89.6 per cent. As the area is not much advanced, the ladies of this district do not prefer to take general employment, but they accept teaching jobs evidently because the profession is noble and the atmosphere of schools is congenial.

Private educational institutions are very few in the district. Most of the schools are run by the Government. Primary schools are run by the Panchayat Samitis. The working conditions in the private and the Government institutions do not differ much. Pay, allowances and grades etc., in the private and the Government institutions are almost the same. However, the facilities like free medical aid, house rent allowance and travelling allowances are not given to the teachers of private institutions. Due to expansion of education in the district the number of educational institutions has increased. Consequently the number of teachers has also increased which is evident from the following table ¹

| Year | Teachers in | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | University & Colleges | | Higher Secondary & High Schools | | Middle and Primary Schools | | Special and Professional Schools | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1961-62 | 90 | - | 413 | 44 | 1,288 | 135 | 55 | - |
| 1962-63 | 92 | 2 | 417 | 52 | 1,464 | 198 | 57 | - |
| 1963-64 | 103 | - | 447 | 47 | 1,503 | 221 | 55 | - |
| 1964-65 | 123 | 1 | 458 | 71 | 1,648 | 269 | 36 | - |
| 1965-66 | 115 | 1 | 486 | 62 | 1,684 | 314 | 37 | - |

The artists, writers and related workers according to the 1961 Census were 225 of which 199 were males and 26 were females, details of which are given below

| S No | Particulars | Male | Female | Total |
|-------|--|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Musicians and related workers | 133 | 17 | 150 |
| 2 | Dancers and related workers | 18 | 8 | 26 |
| 3 | Artists, writers and related workers | 1 | - | 1 |
| 4 | Authors | 7 | - | 7 |
| 5 | Editors, journalists and related workers | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| 6 | Painters, directors and commercial artists | 6 | - | 6 |
| 7 | Actors and related workers | 19 | - | 19 |
| Total | | 199 | 26 | 225 |

¹ Statistical Abstract of Rajasthan, for various years

Doctors

The medical facilities have been increasing fast in the district. Consequently the number of persons engaged in the profession has also increased. As against 48 doctors, 55 *vardyas*, 100 mid-wives, 11 compounders and 2 nurses working in the district in 1951, the 1961 Census recorded the number of such persons as follows :

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| Physicians and Surgeons (Allopathic) | 49 | 3 | 52 |
| Physicians (Ayurvedic) | 205 | — | 205 |
| Physicians (Homeopathic) | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| Physicians (Others) | 9 | — | 9 |
| Dentists | 5 | — | 5 |
| Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Nursing attendants and related workers | 30 | 21 | 51 |
| Mid-wives and Health visitors | 2 | 19 | 21 |
| Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Technicians | 128 | — | 128 |
| Vaccinators | 9 | — | 9 |
| Sanitation Technicians | 24 | — | 24 |
| Opticians | 1 | — | 1 |
| Medical and Health technicians not elsewhere classified | 19 | 1 | 20 |
| Nurses | 7 | 23 | 30 |
| Total | 503 | 69 | 572 |

Non-practising allowance of Rs. 100 00 per month is given to the medical personnel posted as District Health Officers, Junior Specialists, District Malaria Officers, District Small Pox Eradication Officers and Incharge of Employees' State Insurance dispensaries and Primary Health Centres. The members of medical profession have not formed any association in the district.

Lawyers

The legal profession enjoys a special status in the society, it is independent, respectable and lucrative. This profession has produced active political leaders. The number of legal practitioners in this district has increased from 45 in 1951 to 96 in 1961. The details

of persons following this profession at the time of the 1961 Census is given below :

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Legal Practitioners and Advisers | 51 | — | 51 |
| Jurists and Legal technicians including petition writers | 42 | — | 42 |
| Judges and Magistrates | 3 | — | 3 |
| Total | 96 | — | 96 |

There are three Bar Associations in the district located at Rajgarh, Ratangarh and Churu. Legal practitioners and advisers include advocates jurists and legal technicians and petition writers include income-tax practitioners and *munshis*.

Engineers

Since the district is industrially backward, the number of engineering personnel is not large. Their number as per 1961 Census was as follows :

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| 1. Civil Engineers (including Overseers) | 15 | — | 15 |
| 2. Mechanical Engineers | 3 | — | 3 |
| 3. Electrical Engineers | 5 | — | 5 |
| 4. Metallurgical Engineers | 1 | — | 1 |
| 5. Surveyors not elsewhere classified | 11 | — | 11 |
| 6. Draughtsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians | 31 | 3 | 34 |
| Total | 66 | 3 | 69 |

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

Domestic Servants

The persons engaged in domestic services include cooks, indoor servants, water carriers, grooms, coachmen, motor drivers and cleaners. Domestic servants are mostly employed by businessmen, *zamindars* and other well-to-do families in urban areas to assist in domestic and

business affairs The abolition of *zamindari* system has affected this class adversely as the *zamindars* used to employ a large number of domestic servants in their houses The wages of a domestic servant depend upon the nature of his duties. They are paid either in cash or in kind or partly in cash and partly in kind A full-time worker is paid more as compared to a part-time worker. These persons hail generally from Nepal, Himachal Pradesh and eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh. Local persons rarely work as domestic servants because they find cultivation more profitable However, ladies of poor families do work as domestic servants. The number of domestic servants, according to the 1961 Census was as given below

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|---|-------|--------|-------|
| Cooks, cook-bearers (domestic and institutional) | 347 | 233 | 580 |
| Butlers, bearers, waiters, maids and other servants | 762 | 271 | 1,033 |
| House-keepers, matrons, stewards, ayahs, nurses, maids | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| House cooks, maids and related workers not elsewhere classified | - | 1 | 1 |
| Waiters, bartenders and related workers | 33 | 2 | 35 |
| Total | 1,144 | 508 | 1,652 |

Barbers

Barbers, found all over the district, play a significant role in the society as a whole. They used to play an important role in the past. They settled marriages and thereby earned presents In Hindu families the services of the barbers are required during ceremonial occasions like marriage, sacred thread, first hair cutting (*mundan*) and funeral rites. In rural area they are paid usually in kind In urban area a barber gets Rs 0 25 for a shave and Rs 0 50 for hair cutting In important towns of the district some hair-dressing saloons have been set up The average daily earnings of a person engaged in this profession range between Rs 3 to 5

Washermen

Like barbers, washermen are also found all over the district In the rural area they are usually paid in kind Washing charges are comparatively higher due to water shortage in this area Some

washermen have opened laundries of somewhat inferior type in some towns.

Tailors

The number of persons following the tailoring profession is fairly large. There are many independent tailoring shops while some tailors carry on their work in corners of cloth shops. All the towns and big villages have some tailoring shops. Now this profession is being followed even by those who are not tailors (*darjis*) by caste, as it has taken the shape of a business. Tailoring shops have been established by some businessmen, who employ tailors, cutters and out-fitters, paid either at piece rates or on a time basis. Well educated persons and persons of upper strata of the society usually make use of such shops for tailoring purposes. The tailoring charges of a shirt range from Rs. 1 to 2 while for silken or woollen shirt or bush-shirt they range between Rs. 4 to 5. The tailoring of cotton suit costs Rs. 10 to 15 and that of woollen suit from Rs. 20 to 30 or more. Most of the shops do mainly stitching and tailoring work but some also sell ready-made garments.

Shoe-makers

The number of persons engaged in leather work is quite large. This work (including shoe-making) is not now confined to any particular caste. Other classes of people are also now taking it because it is quite a paying profession.

The number of barbers, washermen, tailors and shoe-makers at the time of the 1961 Census was as given in the sub-joined table

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|--|-------|--------|-------|
| Barbers, hair-dressers, beauticians and related workers | 668 | 46 | 714 |
| Laundrymen, washermen and <i>dhobis</i> | 205 | 104 | 309 |
| Dry cleaners and pressers | 4 | - | 4 |
| Tailors, dress-makers and garment makers | 983 | 177 | 1,160 |
| Hat and head-gear makers | 1 | - | 1 |
| Sewers, embroiderers and darners, textile and fur products | 20 | 82 | 102 |
| Tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers | 2 | - | 2 |
| Shoe makers and shoe repairers | 1,209 | 353 | 1,562 |
| Total | 3,092 | 762 | 3,854 |

The economic condition of the persons engaged in domestic and personal services vary from group to group. On the whole it may be said that the over all economic condition of a domestic servant, a barber, a washerman, a tailor and a shoe-maker has considerably improved, as their wages or earnings have gone up several times. Unlike the white-collared class, several members of a family of this class earn their livelihood. A young son, daughter and wife of a domestic servant also work for earning money. Boys as domestic servants are in great demand. Maid-servants, who work at several establishments, seldom remain unemployed.

Though the income of domestic servants has increased considerably, their standard of living has not changed as it has in case of the educated or a semi-educated people. All this has created peculiar economic trends in the society. A boy of a domestic servant or cultivator family after some education sticks to the town for a white-collared job which cannot make him live comfortably with the family, unless he supplements his income from other sources. Hence the general economic condition is rather imbalanced in the social structure to which they belong, which has led to a sense of indiscipline, of drinking, smoking and immoral habits.

The domestic servants, barbers, washermen and tailors etc., have not yet formed their unions in the rural areas. But a beginning has been made in the urban areas which employ the bulk of personnel under the categories of domestic personal services.

Drivers

The number of drivers and other road transport employees at the time of the 1961 Census is given below

| Category | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------------|----------|------------|
| Motor vehicle and motor-cycle drivers | 326 | - | 326 |
| Cycle-rikshaw drivers and rikshaw pullers | 29 | - | 29 |
| Animal drawn vehicle drivers | 611 | 3 | 614 |
| Drivers, road transport not elsewhere classified | 25 | - | 25 |
| Total | 991 | 3 | 994 |

Other miscellaneous occupations

Other non-agricultural occupations pursued in the district at the time of the 1951 Census are given in the table below

| Category | Total | Males | Females |
|---|-------|-------|---------|
| Social scientists and related workers | 56 | 47 | 9 |
| Draughtsmen | 30 | 27 | 3 |
| Ordained religious workers | 317 | 304 | 13 |
| Non-Ordained religious workers | 187 | 171 | 16 |
| Astrologers, palmists and related workers | 42 | 42 | - |
| Directors, managers, whole-sale trade and retail trade | 13 | 13 | - |
| Directors, managers and working proprietors financial institutions | 9 | 9 | - |
| Directors, managers and working proprietors, others | 438 | 432 | 6 |
| Book-keepers and cashiers | 986 | 958 | 28 |
| Stenographers and typists | 37 | 36 | 1 |
| Office machine operators | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Clerical workers | 886 | 876 | 10 |
| Working proprietors, wholesale and retail trade | 7,642 | 7,333 | 309 |
| Insurance and real estate salesmen, salesmen of securities and services and auctioneers | 157 | 155 | 2 |
| Commercial travellers and manufacturers agents | 65 | 65 | - |
| Salesmen and shop assistants, wholesale and retail trade | 1,385 | 1,374 | 11 |
| Hawkers, pedlars and street vendors | 487 | 447 | 40 |
| Salesmen, shop assistants and related workers not elsewhere classified | 6 | 6 | - |
| Money-lenders and pawn-brokers | 73 | 59 | 14 |
| Farmers and farm managers | 60 | 53 | 7 |
| Farmers and farm managers, animals, birds and insects rearing | 58 | 51 | 7 |

| Category | Total | Males | Females |
|---|-------|-------|---------|
| Farm workers, animals, birds and insects rearing | 9,001 | 4,513 | 4,488 |
| Gardeners (<i>malhs</i>) | 253 | 223 | 30 |
| Hunters | 13 | 8 | 5 |
| Fishermen and related workers | 11 | 11 | — |
| Loggers and other forestry workers | 19 | 19 | — |
| Mines and quarrymen | 73 | 64 | 9 |
| Flight-navigators | 10 | 10 | — |
| Drivers and firemen, railway engine | 174 | 174 | — |
| Conductors, guards and brakesmen (Railway) | 49 | 49 | — |
| Inspectors, supervisors, station masters and permanent way inspectors | 64 | 64 | — |
| Signalmen and pointsmen | 157 | 157 | — |
| Telephone, telegraphs and related tele-communications operators | 31 | 31 | — |
| Postmen and messengers | 96 | 96 | — |
| Other workers in transport and communication occupations | 198 | 198 | — |
| Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers | 1,726 | 705 | 1,021 |
| Blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgemen | 501 | 402 | 99 |
| Precision instrument makers, watch and clock makers and repairmen | 92 | 90 | 2 |
| Jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths | 1,201 | 1,195 | 6 |
| Tool-makers, machinists, plumbers, welders, platers and related workers | 321 | 321 | — |
| Electricians, electrical repairmen and related electrical workers | 61 | 61 | — |
| Carpenters, joiners, pattern makers (wood) | 924 | 923 | 1 |
| Cabinet makers | 81 | 81 | — |
| painters and paper hangers | 31 | 16 | 15 |
| Stone cutters, stone carvers and stone dressers | 204 | 174 | 30 |

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

| Category | Total | Males | Females |
|---|-------|-------|---------|
| Bricklayers, plasterers, masons | 1,535 | 1,495 | 40 |
| Glaziers | 40 | 4 | 36 |
| Compositors, printers, engravers, book-binders and related workers | 326 | 165 | 161 |
| Potters and related clay formers | 451 | 356 | 95 |
| Millers, pounders, huskers and parchers | 280 | 253 | 27 |
| Crushers and pressers, oil seeds | 272 | 216 | 56 |
| Dairy workers (non-farm) | 189 | - | 189 |
| Bakers, confectioners, candy and sweetmeat makers | 319 | 307 | 12 |
| Cookers, roasters and other heat treaters, chemical and related process | 29 | 21 | 8 |
| Cheroot, cigar and <i>bidi</i> makers | 375 | 351 | 24 |
| Basketry weavers and related workers | 253 | 158 | 95 |
| Tanners, fellmongers, pelt dressers and related workers | 137 | 92 | 45 |
| Craftsmen and production process workers not elsewhere classified | 432 | 267 | 165 |
| Operators, stationery engines and related equipment | 28 | 28 | - |
| Boilermen and firemen | 10 | 10 | - |
| Loaders and unloaders | 287 | 278 | 9 |
| Labourers | 4,436 | 4,063 | 373 |
| Police constables, investigators and related workers | 943 | 943 | - |
| Watchmen and chowkidars | 304 | 300 | 4 |
| Fire fighters, policemen, guards and related workers not elsewhere classified | 264 | 264 | - |
| Photographers and related camera operators | 13 | 13 | - |
| Workers reporting occupation unidentifiable or unclassifiable | 858 | 813 | 45 |

Source : *Census of India* 1961, volume XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-B (ii), General Economic Tables

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

There is no regular account of the economic conditions which prevailed in the district in the past. As the district is a part of the desert region, famines occur here quite frequently. The great famine of 1868-69 severely affected the economy of Churu district. In the year 1877-78 again the famine was very acute as the main crop of the district was damaged to the extent of 75 per cent. In the year 1891-92, the rainfall was untimely and very scarce resulting in failure of crops. Locusts also appear and over-run the areas causing much havoc to crops and trees.

As the occurrences of famines and visitations of locusts are frequent, people have to emigrate with their cattle in search of food and fodder. Like the harvestmen of the west Ireland many of the labouring classes of this district migrate annually in search of work, to more fertile and economically and industrially developed areas. In the olden days during the period of scarcity, famine and locust many of the people used to subsist on roots, and seeds of grass, supplemented by locusts (when these were available). The locusts were boiled in salt water, and curried and cooked in different ways to suit tastes. Locusts were much prized as an article of diet both in the fresh and preserved state.

As this area is poor in material resources, in general, people here are comparatively poor. Only a few Government officials, *Thakurs* and business men of this area are financially well off. The agriculturists are miserably poor and feel envious of this class.

"On enquiries made with the agriculturists of the area, it was found that out of 30 years there is only one very good year, four good years, 12 fair years, 10 bad years and 3 famine or very bad years"¹

Thus an agriculturist may have only two very good years during his life time if he lives upto 60 years of age.

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

1951 Census

According to the 1951 Census Report, the number of persons depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture as their principal means of livelihood was 3,73,393, which formed 71.4 per cent of the total population, taking into consideration also the non-cultivating owners of land and their dependents. Amongst agriculturists the largest percentage of 36.4, was that of cultivators of land, wholly or mainly owned, and their dependents. Cultivators of land, wholly or mainly unowned, and their dependents constituted 33.6 per cent. The cultivating labourers and their dependents and non-cultivating owners formed 0.6 and 0.8 per cent respectively.

Non-agricultural category comprised of 28.6 per cent, of which people depending on other services and miscellaneous sources formed 12.1 per cent of the total population. Traders were 9.6 per cent, industrialists 6 per cent and persons engaged in transport industry 0.9 per cent of the population.

URBAN POPULATION—In urban areas the owner cultivators and the cultivators of unowned land were 7.1 per cent and 16.3 per cent respectively of the total urban population. The cultivating labourers and the non-cultivating owners of land were 1.0 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively. The non-agricultural category formed 75.1 per cent. Amongst them the largest group depended upon other services and miscellaneous sources constituting 31.2 per cent, traders being 25.4 per cent, industrialists 16.2 per cent and those engaged in transport industry 2.3 per cent.

RURAL POPULATION—In the rural areas, the agricultural classes formed 96.9 per cent of the total rural population and non-agricultural classes 3.1 per cent. Cultivators of unowned land and their dependents were 43.1 per cent, cultivating labourers and their dependents 0.4 per cent, while the non-cultivating owners of land 0.9 per cent. Of the non-agricultural category, the largest number depended upon other services and miscellaneous sources comprising 1.7 per cent. Those depending on trade were 1 per cent, and industrialists 0.3 per cent. The number of persons engaged in transport industry was 0.2 per cent only.

ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE PERSONS—Economically inactive persons can be divided into two categories : (a) those who get their livelihood

without any activity e.g. pensioners, stipend holders, receivers of rent from land or buildings or interest, and (b) those whose activities are uneconomic in nature i.e. beggars, prostitutes etc. The number of such persons was 1,382 (956 males and 426 females), which formed 0.26 per cent of the total population of the district.

1961 Census

According to the 1961 Census, out of the total population of 6,59,011 persons (3,40,048 males and 3,18,963 females), 4,50,968 persons (2,35,228 males and 2,15,740 females), lived in rural areas while only 2,08,043 persons (1,04,820 males and 1,03,223 females) were in urban areas.

Workers and non-workers were 47.87 per cent and 52.13 per cent of the total population of the district respectively. Of the total working population 2,56,010 persons (1,44,041 males and 1,11,969 females) lived in rural areas and 59,564 persons (46,814 males and 12,750 females) in urban areas. Out of the total non-working population, 1,94,958 persons (91,187 males and 1,03,771 females) lived in rural areas and 1,48,479 persons (58,006 males and 90,473 females) in urban areas. In the working population, males are in greater number as compared to females, and in the non-working population females are in larger number as compared to males both in rural as well as in urban areas.

Details of the working population as per 1961 Census in Churu district are as follows:

| Classification | Rural | | | Urban | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| 1 Cultivators | 1,32,767 | 1,05,779 | 2,38,546 | 13,277 | 8,331 | 21,608 |
| 2 Agricultural labourers | 1,102 | 638 | 1,740 | 418 | 59 | 477 |
| 3 Mining, quarrying, fisheries & hunting etc. | 475 | 289 | 764 | 541 | 49 | 590 |
| 4 Household Industries | 4,851 | 4,857 | 9,708 | 3,448 | 1,913 | 5,361 |
| 5 Manufacturing other than household industry | 231 | 69 | 300 | 4,021 | 197 | 4,218 |
| 6. Construction | 181 | 33 | 214 | 2,498 | 121 | 2,619 |
| 7 Trade & commerce | 1,013 | 58 | 1,071 | 9,097 | 305 | 9,402 |
| 8. Transport, storage and communications | 654 | 1 | 655 | 2,807 | 14 | 2,821 |
| 9 Other services | 2,767 | 245 | 3,012 | 10,707 | 1,761 | 12,468 |

ECONOMIC STATUS

1951 Census

In the 1951 Census, the economic classification has been done into two broad livelihood categories : (a) the agricultural classes and (b) the non-agricultural classes. There are four agricultural classes viz ,
 1 Cultivators of land, wholly or mainly owned, and their dependents,
 2. Cultivators of land, wholly or mainly unowned; and their dependents.
 3 Cultivating labourers, and their dependents and 4. Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents
 Persons who belong to non-agricultural classes are those who derive their principal means of livelihood from, 5. Production other than cultivation, 6 Commerce, 7. Transport and 8 Other services and miscellaneous sources.

The livelihood pattern according to the 1951 Census in Churu district is given below :

| Particulars | Self supporting | | Non-earning dependents | | Earning dependents | |
|--|-----------------|---------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| I Agricultural population | 1,04,631 | 60,356 | 81,276 | 1 04,480 | 9,508 | 13,142 |
| a. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents | 52,992 | 31,219 | 43,061 | 52,799 | 5,011 | 5,472 |
| b. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents | 49,958 | 28,438 | 36,401 | 49,101 | 4,360 | 7,596 |
| c. Cultivating labourers and their dependents | 670 | 455 | 913 | 960 | 37 | 41 |
| d Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents | 1,011 | 244 | 901 | 1,620 | 100 | 33 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| II. Non-Agricultural population | | 29,915 | 5,480 | 41,573 | 67,378 | 2,947 | 2,590 |
| a Production other than cultivation | | 5,020 | 1,442 | 9,291 | 13,168 | 1,352 | 926 |
| b Commerce | | 10,597 | 1,270 | 13,449 | 23,243 | 644 | 1,172 |
| c Transport | | 1,270 | 28 | 1,347 | 2,091 | 45 | 49 |
| d Other services and miscellaneous services | | 13,028 | 2,740 | 17,486 | 28,871 | 906 | 443 |

Of the agricultural population (3,73,393), the largest number (1,85,756) was that of non-earning dependents constituting 49.7 per cent. The next largest number (1,64,987) was that of self-supporting persons which was 44.2 per cent and the earning dependents constituted 6.1 per cent of the agricultural population.

Of the non-agricultural population (1,49,883), the pattern of non-earning (1,08,951), self-supporting persons (35,395) and earning dependents (5,537) was similar to that of agricultural population which was 72.7 per cent, 23.6 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively.

1961 Census

The basic economic classification of population in the 1961 Census was changed and therefore, the data is not comparable with that of the 1951 Census.

According to the 1961 Census, the population of the district was 6,59,011 of which 4,50,968 (68.4 per cent) was rural and 2,08,043 (31.6 per cent) was urban. Out of the total population, the workers were 3,15,574 representing 47.87 per cent of the total population comprising 1,90,855 males (60.5 per cent) and 1,24,719 females (39.5 per cent). As per rural and urban classification of workers 2,56,010 workers (81.1 per cent) were living in rural areas comprising 1,44,041 males (56.7 per cent) and 1,11,969 females (43.3 per cent) and 59,564 persons (18.9 per cent) were living in urban areas comprising 46,814 males (78.6 per cent) and 12,750 females (21.4 per cent).

Non-workers (3,43,437) representing 52.13 per cent of the total population comprised 1,49,193 males (43.4 per cent) and 1,94,244 females (56.6 per cent). Of the total non-workers, 1,94,958 (56.8 per cent) were living in rural areas comprising 91,187 males (47.3 per cent) and 1,03,771 females (52.7 per cent) and 1,48,479 (43.2 per cent) were living in urban areas comprising 58,006 males (39.1 per cent) and 90,473 females (60.9 per cent). This clearly shows the preponderance of females amongst non-workers both in rural and urban areas.

Of the total working population 2,60,154 (1,90,855 males and 1,4,2719 females) were engaged in cultivation excluding agricultural labourers. Among the cultivators 2,38,546 (1,32,767 males and 1,05,779 females) lived in rural areas while only 21,608 (13,277 males and 8,331, females) lived, in urban areas.

Workers employed as agricultural labourers were 2,217 (1,520 males and 697 females), of which 1,740 (1,102 males and 638 females) were living in rural areas and 477 (418 males and 59 females) in urban areas.

Persons engaged in mining, quarrying, livestock, fishing and hunting etc., were 1,354 (1,016 males and 338 females), of which 764 (475 males and 289 females) were living in rural areas and 590 (541 males and 49 females) in urban areas.

Household industry provided support to 15,069 persons (8,299 males and 6,770 females), of which 9,708 (4,851 males and 4,857 females) were living in rural areas and 5,361 (3,448 males and 1,913 females) in urban areas.

Manufacturing other than household industry supported 4,518 persons (4,252 males and 266 females), of which 300 (231 males and 69 females) were living in rural areas and 4,218 (4,021 males and 197 females) in urban areas.

Persons drawing their livelihood from construction work were 2,833 (2,679 males and 154 females) of which 214 (181 males and 33 females) were living in rural areas and 2,619 (2,498 males and 121 females) in urban areas.

The number of persons drawing their livelihood from trade and commerce was 10,473 (10,110 males and 363 females) of which 1,071 persons (1,013 males and 58 females) were living in rural areas and 9,402 persons (9,097 males and 305 females) in urban areas.

Transport, storage and communications supported 3,476 persons (3,461 males and 15 females) of which 655 (654 males and 1 female) were living in rural areas and 2,821 (2,807 males and 14 females) in urban areas

In other services the number of persons engaged was 15,480 (13,474 males and 2,006 females) of which 3,012 (2,767 males and 245 females) were living in rural areas and 12,468 (10,707 males and 1,761 females) in urban areas.

The table given below indicates the livelihood pattern of the population in Churu district at the time of the 1961 Census

| Particulars | Workers | | | Percentage to total population |
|---|----------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| | Males | Females | Total | |
| (A) Workers | 1,90,855 | 1,24,719 | 3,15,574 | 47.87 |
| Cultivators | 1,46,044 | 1,14,110 | 2,60,154 | 39.48 |
| Agricultural labourers | 1,520 | 697 | 2,217 | 0.33 |
| Mining, quarrying, live-stock, forestry, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities | 1,016 | 338 | 1,354 | 0.20 |
| Household industry | 8,299 | 6,770 | 15,069 | 2.28 |
| Manufacturing other than household industry | 4,252 | 266 | 4,518 | 0.68 |
| Construction | 2,679 | 154 | 2,833 | 0.43 |
| Trade and commerce | 10,110 | 363 | 10,473 | 1.59 |
| Transport, storage and communications | 3,461 | 15 | 3,476 | 0.53 |
| Other services | 13,474 | 2,006 | 15,480 | 2.35 |
| (B) Non-workers | 1,49,193 | 1,94,244 | 3,43,437 | 52.13 |
| Total | 3,40,048 | 3,18,963 | 6,59,011 | |

PRICES

In Churu district the average retail prices for agricultural produce in the latter part of the last century were very depressing to the producer. Some data about prices of a few articles prevailing at Nizamath headquarters were collected and published in the *Annual Administration Reports* of the Bikaner State. The price collecting agency was the Tahsildar who collected the retail prices.

The following table gives the average retail prices¹ of foodgrains and *ghee* at some important centres of Churu district.

(Price per rupee)

| Centre | Year | Commodity | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|-----------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | | wheat | Bajra | Moth | Gram | Moong | Guar | Ghee |
| | | S C | S C | S C. | S C | S C | S C. | S.C. |
| 1. Churu | 1894-95 | 16-0 | 20-0 | 23-0 | 32-0 | 20-0 | 32-0 | 1-12 |
| | 1895-96 | 11-8 | 11-8 | 12-8 | 18-0 | 13 0 | 22-0 | 1-6 |
| 2. Rajgarh | 1894-95 | 17-0 | 23-0 | 26-8 | 32-0 | 24 0 | 35-0 | 1-11 |
| | 1895-96 | 12-12 | 12-8 | 13-0 | 19-4 | 13-0 | 19-0 | 1-6 |
| 3. Ratangarh | 1894-95 | 15-0 | 19-0 | 26-0 | 27-0 | 22-0 | 32-0 | 1-13 |
| | 1895-96 | 12-0 | 12-0 | 13-0 | 17-0 | — | 20-0 | 1-6 |
| 4. Dungargarh | 1894-95 | 14-0 | 18-8 | 31-0 | 30-0 | 18-0 | — | 1-14 |
| | 1895-96 | 12-0 | 11-0 | 13-0 | 16-0 | 10-8 | — | 1-4 |
| 5. Sardarshahr | 1894-95 | 16-0 | 18-0 | 36 0 | 32-0 | 20-0 | 35-0 | 1-14 |
| | 1895-96 | 12-0 | 12 0 | 12-0 | — | — | — | 1-6 |
| 6. Sujangarh | 1894-95 | 14-0 | 19-0 | 25-0 | 23-0 | 20-0 | 30-0 | 1-9 |
| | 1895-96 | 12-0 | 12-0 | 14-0 | — | 10-0 | 16-0 | 1-7 |

S = Seer

C = Chhatank

It will be observed from the above table that the prices in 1895-96 were higher as compared to those in 1894-95 throughout the whole district. Wheat which was being sold 17 seers for a rupee at Rajgarh in 1894-95 was available only at 12 seers and 12 chhatanks for a rupee in the year 1895-96. At Ratangarh, gram was available at 27 seers for a rupee in 1894-95 and was sold at 17 seers for a rupee in the year 1895-96. This substantial rise in the prices was due to famine conditions which were prevailing in the year 1895-96 in the Churu

1. *Annual Administration Reports of Bikaner State* for various years

district. The then rulers imported foodgrains from the neighbouring States and tried to keep down the prices. Had there not been a good import of grains, the prices would have risen still higher and the people would have suffered still more.

The years just before the out-break of the First World War, saw the emergence of a peculiarly disadvantageous trend in prices from the point of view of the consumer. Wheat which was selling at the rate of 17 seers and 14 seers a rupee at Rajgarh and Sujangarh respectively in the year 1894-95 was sold at the rate of 11 seers per rupee in the year 1912-13. The consumer had to pay more and more for his daily food and other necessities of life. The period of abnormal increase in price continued during the decade that followed the First World War.

Average retail prices¹ at Rajgarh, Sujangarh and Taranagar (Reni) during 1911 to 1916 are given below.

(Price per rupee)

| Centre | Year | Commodity | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | Wheat | Bajra | Moth | Moong | Barley | Jowar | Gram |
| | | SC | SC | SC | SC | SC | SC | SC |
| Rajgarh | 1911-12 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 1912-13 | 11—0 | 10—4 | 10—8 | 9—8 | 13—0 | — | 14—2 |
| | 1913-14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 1914-15 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 1915-16 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sujangarh | 1911-12 | 10—8 | 12—0 | 13—8 | 12—0 | 14—0 | 13—0 | 16—0 |
| | 1912-13 | 11—0 | 12—12 | 12—8 | 10—0 | — | — | 17—0 |
| | 1913-14 | 9—8 | 10—0 | 9—0 | 6—8 | — | — | 11—8 |
| | 1914-15 | 7—0 | 13—4 | 13—8 | 8—0 | — | — | 11—0 |
| | 1915-16 | 7—12 | 8—7 | 10—0 | 7—0 | 11—7 | 10—6 | 11—7 |
| Reni (Taranagar) | 1911-12 | 10—8 | 12—0 | 14—0 | 13—0 | — | — | 17—0 |
| | 1912-13 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 1913-14 | 10—0 | 11—8 | 9—8 | 8—0 | 14—0 | 13—12 | 14—8 |
| | 1914-15 | 7—0 | 13—0 | 13—12 | 10—0 | 11—0 | 13—0 | 10—0 |
| | 1915-16 | 7—10 | 8—1 | 9—2 | 6—10 | 11—0 | 11—14 | 10—14 |

S=Seer

C=Chhatank

¹ Annual Administration Reports of Bikaner State for various years

Prices of wheat were 11 seers per rupee at Rajgarh in the year 1912-13. They oscillated between 7 and 11 seers per rupee at Sujangarh and Reni (Taranagar) during the period of five years from 1911-12 to 1915-16. Price of *bajra* moved between 8 seers 1 chhatank and 13 seers 4 chhatanks per rupee. Price of *moth* was 9 seers 2 chhatanks recorded in 1915-16 at Reni (Taranagar) and it was 13 seers 12 chhatanks in 1914-15. The price of *Moong* ranged between 6 seers 8 chhatanks and 13 seers per rupee. Barley price moved from 14 seers to 11 seers per rupee. *Jowar* price moved between 10 seers 6 chhatanks and 13 seers 12 chhatanks per rupee. Gram was selling between 17 and 10 seers per rupee during the five year period from 1911-12 to 1915-16 at the above mentioned three centres (Rajgarh, Sujangarh and Reni) of the Churu district.

The prices, however, were stabilised to some extent and wildness of fluctuation became timid a decade after the First World War. Below are given retail prices¹ of two important centres, Sujangarh and Reni of Churu district during 1923 to 1929-30 :

| | | (Price per rupee) | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------|------|
| Centre | Year | Commodity | | | | | | |
| | | Wheat | Millet | Moth | Moong | Barley | Jwar | Gram |
| | | S.C. | S.C. | S.C. | S.C. | S.C. | S.C. | S.C. |
| Sujangarh | 1923-24 | 6-0 | 10-8 | 14-0 | 8-8 | — | — | 10-0 |
| | 1924-25 | 7-0 | 8-0 | 10-0 | 9-0 | — | — | 9-0 |
| | 1925-26 | 6-0 | 8-5 | 11-0 | 7-0 | — | — | 11-0 |
| | 1926-27 | 7-10 | 8-5 | 9-10 | 4-10 | 12-10 | 7-0 | 9-13 |
| | 1927-28 | 7-10 | 8-8 | 9-10 | 4-10 | 12-10 | 7-0 | 9-13 |
| | 1928-29 | 7-4 | 6-8 | 7-0 | 4-8 | — | — | 6-12 |
| | 1929-30 | 14-0 | 11-0 | 9-0 | 7-8 | — | — | 9-0 |
| Reni (Taranagar) | 1923-24 | 7-8 | 8-4 | 10-0 | 8-12 | — | — | 14-8 |
| | 1924-25 | 6-8 | 12-8 | 15-0 | 12-0 | — | — | 14-0 |
| | 1925-26 | 7-0 | 9-0 | 9-8 | 5-6 | 8-0 | — | 11-0 |
| | 1926-27 | 7-0 | 7-4 | 11-0 | 6-0 | 8-0 | 1-0 | 10-0 |
| | 1927-28 | 6-4 | — | 10-0 | 6-8 | 8-8 | 7-0 | 8-8 |
| | 1928-29 | 7-0 | 6-4 | 6-8 | 5-8 | — | — | 6-4 |
| | 1929-30 | 13-0 | 12-8 | 10-12 | 8-0 | 7-0 | 15-0 | 12-0 |
| S = Seer | | C. = Chhatank | | | | | | |

1 Annual Administration Reports of Bikaner State for various years.

In the year 1924-25, owing to poor harvest, the prices of most of the foodgrains stood at high level, and they were reported to have been higher in Churu than in other parts of Bikaner State and the neighbouring areas. The then Government introduced the scheme of co-operative sales with a view to checking the rise in prices.

The Second World War brought another spell of rising prices throughout the country and Churu district was no exception to it. To arrest the rise in prices, the State Government declared 'Profiteering' to be a cognisable offence, under the Defence of India Ordinance 1939. All police officers not below the rank of a head constable, were empowered to arrest without warrant any person against whom there was a reasonable suspicion of 'Profiteering'. The public was advised not to hoard any of the essential commodities or to buy in excess.

The average retail prices¹ in whole of the Bikaner State are given below of which Churu was a sub-division for the triennial 1939-40 to 1941-42.

(Price per rupee)

| Year | Commodity | | | | | | |
|---------|----------------|---------------|--------|-------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Wheat | | Bajara | Guar | Sugar | | |
| | Ist Quality | II Quality | | | Ist Quality | II Quality | III Quality |
| | S C. | S C | S C | S C | S C | S C | S C |
| 1939-40 | 9-5 | 10-0 | 9-3 | 11-15 | 2-5 | 2-7 | 2-10 |
| 1940-41 | 9-0 | 9-7 | 13-13 | 14-13 | 2-9 | 2-13 | 2-10 |
| 1941-42 | 6-8 | 6-13 | 8-0 | 10-1 | 1-15 | 2-3 | 2-1 |

S = Seer

C = Chhatank

In the year 1941-42, strict measures were adopted for controlling the supply and prices of foodgrains and other essential articles. The Government prohibited hoarding of foodgrains beyond sixty maunds (22 39 quintals) for a family of five persons. Kerosene oil and salt were also brought under the category of controlled commodities.

The following Control Orders were promulgated with a view to checking the rise in prices.

- 1 The Foodgrains Control Order, 1942
- 2 The Foodgrains (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order, 1942

1 Annual Administration Reports of the Bikaner State for 1939-40 to 1941-42

3. Essential Articles Control Order, 1942.
4. Cotton Cloth (Control) Order, 1943.
5. The Bikaner State Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941
6. The Tyre Rationing Order, 1942
7. Bleaching Powder and Chlorine Control Order, 1943.

The upward trend of prices which began during the Second World War continued thereafter upto 1952. This was mainly due to failure of crops and increase in population. The prices were abnormally high in 1947-48 due to the partition of the country when large number of persons immigrated to India from Pakistan. The devaluation of the rupee in 1949 brought further spurt in the rising trend.

In order to check the upward trend in prices, several well-known remedies including mopping up of the excess purchasing power in a section of the population, were resorted to. Priority was given to agriculture in the Plans. Banks were advised not to lend money on agricultural produce. The following table gives the retail prices¹ of foodgrains calculated on the basis of monthly average prevailing at the district headquarters

| Year | (Rupees per maund) | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Wheat | Barley | Commodity | | | |
| | | | Gram | Jowar | Bajra | Maize |
| 1952 | 19 69 | 15 37 | 16 42 | 15 46 | 18 11 | — |
| 1953 | 18 94 | 13 23 | 16 37 | 11 00 | 13 02 | — |
| 1954 | 14.17 | 10 66 | 11 90 | 9.15 | 10.09 | 7 00 |
| 1955 | 14 19 | 8.00 | 8 16 | 7 67 | 9.10 | — |
| 1956 | 17 16 | — | 11.12 | 9 76 | 12.46 | — |
| 1957 | 17 42 | 13 25 | 13 78 | 13 25 | 15.85 | 14 00 |
| 1958 | 18.98 | 13.24 | 14.49 | 12 68 | 14.68 | 13 80 |
| 1959 | 21 69 | 13 75 | 13 77 | 14.29 | 16 47 | 14 09 |
| 1960 | 19 05 | 13 51 | 14 04 | 14 69 | 15.83 | 13 96 |

The prices, however, showed a downward trend between 1952-57. They again started rising in 1958. The maximum and minimum prices of barley were Rs 15 37 and Rs 8 00 per maund respectively. The

¹ *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1958, and 1951.*

prices of Gram oscillated between Rs 8 16 and 16.42 per maund. *Jowar* prices moved between Rs. 7.67 and Rs 15 46 per maund. *Bajra* recorded a maximum price of Rs 18 11 per maund and minimum price of Rs 9 10 per maund.

The harvest (farm) prices are the average wholesale rate at which the commodities are sold by the producer in the village during the harvest period. Below are given harvest (farm) prices which prevailed in Churu district¹ during 1958-59 to 1964-65

(Rupees per quintal)

| Commodity | 1958-59 | 1959-60 | 1960-61 | 1961-62 | 1962-63 | 1963-64 | 1964-65 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Jowar</i> | 38 58 | 37 51 | 37 51 | 34 83 | 34 83 | 53 80 | 53 58 |
| <i>Bajra</i> | 40 99 | 42 14 | 42 57 | 39 22 | 37.70 | 48 22 | 51 57 |
| Wheat | 53.91 | 48 23 | 47 05 | 48 55 | 48 23 | 67.46 | 66 98 |
| Barley | 39 71 | 40 19 | 35 85 | 34 99 | 36 63 | 47.55 | 53 58 |
| Gram | 35 93 | 37 30 | 34 37 | 41 26 | 42 20 | 57 09 | 48 81 |
| Sesamum | 84 48 | 79 36 | 91 09 | 100 79 | — | 109 30 | 147 36 |
| Rape & Mustard | 65 88 | 65 96 | 72 34 | 92 78 | — | 102 47 | 107 17 |
| Tobacco | 234 43 | 215 84 | 174 15 | 243 76 | 321 51 | 261 20 | 267 92 |

It is evident from the above table that the prices of all the commodities fluctuated in a narrow range between the years 1958-59 and 1962-63 but a steep rise was witnessed during the 1963-64

WAGES

It has been recorded in the *Gazetteer of Bikaner* (of which Churu was a sub-division) compiled by Captain P W. Powlett in 1874 that the normal rates in Bikaner at which skilled labour was available was four annas (25 paise) a day. The rate for unskilled labour was only two annas (12 paise) per day.

Major K D Erskine, in *Rajputana Gazetteer* says that a labourer used to receive 2 annas (12 paise) and the Syce (Horse-keeper) 3 annas (19 paise) per day. The blacksmith and carpenter got 5 annas (31 paise) and 6 annas (37 paise). The barbers, potters and shoe-makers were usually paid in kind at the harvest time.

1 *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, Volumes for various years*

The average annual wage rates of skilled and semi-skilled workers which prevailed in the princely State of Bikaner from 1924-25 to 1945-46 are given below :

| Year | Wage rates per day | | Remarks |
|---------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | From | To | |
| | Rs An Pies | Rs An Pies | |
| 1924-25 | 0—4-0 | 1—8-0 | Semi-skilled & skilled worker |
| 1926-27 | 0—5 0 | 1—8-0 | |
| 1929-30 | 0—4-0 | 1—4-0 | |
| 1930-31 | 0—4-0 | 1—0-0 | |
| 1932-33 | 0—4-0 | 1—0-0 | |
| 1939-40 | 0—2-0 | 0—5-0 | Semi-skilled worker |
| | 0-12-0 | 1—4-0 | Skilled worker |
| 1941-42 | 0—3-0 | 0-10-0 | Semi-skilled worker |
| | 0-12-0 | 1—8-0 | Skilled worker |
| 1942-43 | 0—8-0 | 1—0-0 | Semi-skilled worker |
| | 1—4-0 | 2—0-0 | Skilled worker |
| 1945-46 | 1—0-0 | 1—8-0 | Semi-skilled worker |
| | 2—0-0 | 3—0-0 | Skilled worker |

An = Añnas

In the year 1929-30 wage rates witnessed a fall due to famine conditions. They further declined in the year 1939-40. An abnormal rise in wage rates was visible after the Second World War period when the wages ranged between Rs 1 to Rs 1/8 for semi-skilled and Rs 2 to Rs 3 for a skilled labourer in the year 1945-46. Nevertheless, they could not keep pace with the rise in prices. The workers could not press for increase in wages for want of organised trade unions.

In the rural areas, there are two types of labourers i.e. domestic and hired. Domestic labourer is not paid as a hired one. In this district most of the work is done by the cultivator himself. Being assisted by their wives and other members of their families including children only a few farmers depend exclusively on hired labour.

In recent years, the farm labourers do not like to accept wages in cash. A certain percentage of crop harvested by them is preferred to be received as wages.

1. *Annual Administration Reports* of Bikaner State for various years

Wages for farm labourers are mostly determined by prevalent customs and conventions. Besides, the law of supply and demand plays its part in determining the wages. During the busy season, the wages go high, while during the slack season labour can be employed at low wages.

The agricultural wages¹ in Churu district during 1958-59 were as follows

(Rupees)

| Agricultural Operation | Region | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| | Northern | Central | Southern |
| Ploughing | 2 50 | 2 00 | 1 00 |
| Weeding | 1 50 | 1.50 | 1 00 |
| Sowing | 3 00 | 2 50 | 2.00 |
| Harvesting | 2 50 | 2 00 | 1 00 |
| Threshing | 1 50 | 1 50 | 1 00 |
| Miscellaneous | 1 50 | 1.00 | 0 75 |

The industry-wise minimum wages fixed for workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 1966 were as below.²

| S No | Industry | Minimum wages (Rs) |
|------|--|---|
| 1. | Employment in agriculture | Male 52.50 per month |
| | | Female 45.00 per month |
| | | Child 00 87 per day |
| 2 | Employment in oil mills | 1 Unskilled 60 00 per month or 2 31 per day inclusive of weekly days of rest. |
| | | 2 Semi-skilled 85 00 per month |
| | | 3 Skilled 100 00 per month |
| 3. | Employment in wool cleaning and pressing factories | 1. Unskilled 60 00 per month or 2.31 per day inclusive of weekly holiday. |
| | | 2 Semi-skilled 80.00 per month |
| | | 3. Skilled 100 00 per month |

1 D S Yadav, *Economics of Desert* (unpublished thesis)

2. Labour Commissioner, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

| S No | Industry | Minimum wages (Rs) |
|------|--|---|
| 4. | Cotton ginning and pressing and bailing establishments | 1. Unskilled 60 00 per month or 2.31 per day inclusive of weekly holiday. 2 Semi-skilled 80.00 per month 3 Skilled 100 00 per month |
| 5 | Employment in public motor transport | 1. Unskilled 60.00 per month 2. Semi-skilled 85 00 per month 3 Skilled 100 00 per month 4 Inspecting staff 100 00 per month 5. Traffic staff i) Cleaner 65 00 per month ii) Conductor 85 00 per month iii) Driver 100 00 per month |
| 6. | Employment in rice, flour and <i>dal</i> mills | 1. Skilled 100 00 per month 2. Semi-skilled 80 00 per month 3. Unskilled 60 00 per month |
| 7. | Employment in printing presses | 1. Unskilled 60 00 per month or 2 31 per day inclusive of weekly holiday 2 Semi-skilled 80 00 per month 3. Skilled 100.00 per month |
| 8. | Employment in any mica works | 1 Unskilled 60.00 per month 2. Dresser & sorter 75 00 per month 3 Cutter 40 paisa per kg. of mica cut but not less than 60.00 per month. |
| 9 | Employment under local authority | 1. Unskilled 60.00 per month 2 <i>Jamadar</i> 65.00 per month 3. Semi-skilled 85.00 per month 4 Skilled 100 00 per month |

| S No | Industry | Minimum wages (Rs) |
|------|--|---------------------|
| | 4. Traffic staff | |
| | a) Motor driver of light vehicles | 100 00 per month |
| | b) Motor driver of heavy vehicles | 125 00 per month |
| | c) Tractor driver | 125 00 per month |
| | d) Heavy truck driver | 125 00 per month |
| | e) Earth moving equipment driver | 150 00 per month |
| 10 | Employment in mica mines | |
| | 1. Unskilled | 60 00 per month |
| | 2. Semi-skilled | |
| | a) Dresser | 75 00 per month |
| | b) Sorter | 75 00 per month |
| | c) Mate | 80 00 per month |
| | d) Carpenter | 85.00 per month |
| | e) Blacksmith | 85 00 per month |
| | f) Fittermen | 85 00 per month |
| | g) Machine driver upto 10 HP. | 90 00 per month |
| | h) Engine driver | 90 00 per month |
| | i) Compressor driver | 90 00 per month |
| | j) Blasters with restricted certificate | 90 00 per month |
| | k) Hand driller | 90 00 per month |
| | 3. Skilled | |
| | a) Blaster with unrestricted certificate | 110 00 per month |
| | b) Fitter | 100 00 per month |
| | c) Electrician | 100 00 per month |
| | d) Driver of machine of more than 10 HP. | 100 00 per month |
| | 4. Traffic Staff | |
| | a) Cleaner | 65 00 per month |
| | b) Jeep and light vehicle driver | 100 00 per month |
| | c) Truck driver | 125.00 per month |

| S. No. | Industry | Minimum Wages |
|--------|--|---|
| | 5. Piece rated workmen (Cutter) | 0.40 paisa per kg. of mica cut (inclusive of Sunday wages), but not less than 60/- per month. |
| 11. | Employment in the construction or maintenance of roads or in building operations | |
| | 1. Unskilled | |
| | a) <i>Beldar, halli chowkidar, work-keepers, Farrash, Dhobis, water-man, Bhisti, Sweeper</i> | 60 00 per month |
| | b) Mates, head gardeners, <i>Jamadar</i> , helpers, fireman, sprayman, chain-man, gauge reader | 65 00 per month |
| | 2. Semi-skilled | |
| | Driver of machinery upto 10 HP, hand driller, stone dresser and cutter | 90.00 per month |
| | 3. Skilled | |
| | i) Cinema operator | 100.00 per month |
| | ii) Mechanical driller and plater | 110 00 per month |
| | iii) Road roller driver and truck driver | 125.00 per month |
| | iv) Earth moving equipment driver/operator | 150.00 per month |
| 12. | Employment in stone breaking and stone crushing | |
| | 1. Unskilled | |

| S No | Industry | Minimum Wages (Rs) |
|------|--|---------------------|
| | 1) <i>Beldar, Chowkidar,</i> work-keeper, waterman, sweeper, stone breaker and stone carrier | 60 00 per month |
| | ii) Mate, <i>jamadar,</i> helper, chainman | 65 00 per month |
| | iii) Male & female (young persons) | 52 00 per month |
| 2 | Semi-skilled Driver of machi- nery upto 10 HP , hand driller, stone dresser and cutter | 90 00 per month |
| 3 | Skilled | |
| | i) Driver of motor vehicle, <i>mistri,</i> carpenter welder, blacksmith mecha- nic, fitter, fireman, turner, moulder, electrician, wireman | 100 00 per month |
| | ii) Mechanical driller and blaster, stone crusher, operator | 110 00 per month |
| | iii) Truck driver | 125 00 per month |

All employees who are employed on hire or required to do any work skilled or unskilled, manual or electrical are entitled to the statutory minimum rates of wages. These are revised every five years or earlier, on the basis of the advice of a specially constituted committee.

STANDARD OF LIVING

The Churu district being a desert area, its economy is backward. The great majority of people are owners of cattle and sheep. Droughts and famines occur with distressing frequency which render parts of the district depopulated.

The staple food of the masses is *bajra* and that of well-to-do, wheat and barley. Vegetables are scarce. During the famine period many subsist on the roots and seeds of grasses and fresh bark of tree. Churned curd known as *Khata* or *Rabb* is largely used as diet except during famine when milk cattle die or become dry due to scarcity of fodder

Male-wears consist of *Dhoti* and *Angarkhi* or *Kurta* called *Chola* and large size *Pagri* (turban) as a head dress. Female-wears consist of *Ghagra* and *Lungri* or *Odm*. People in most of the rural areas live in old type *kachcha* houses generally made of clay, sticks and grass.

According to All India Rural Credit Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India during 1956-57, the average expenditure¹ per family in Churu district was Rs. 576, 112 and 527 respectively for cultivating families, non-cultivating families and other families, details of which are given below :

(Rupees)

| Item | Cultiva- tors | Non- cultivators | All families |
|--|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Total expenditure | 576 | 112 | 527 |
| 1 Capital expenditure in agriculture | 84 | 4 | 75 |
| (i) Building and other land improvement | 11 | — | 10 |
| (ii) Purchase of livestock | 53 | 1 | 47 |
| (iii) Purchase of implements, machinery and transport equipment | 5 | — | 5 |
| (iv) Other capital expenditure | 15 | 3 | 14 |
| 2 Capital expenditure in non-farm business | 2 | — | 2 |
| 3 Family expenditure | 482 | 106 | 442 |
| (i) Construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings | 7 | — | 6 |
| (ii) Purchase of clothing, shoes, bedding etc. | 394 | 106 | 363 |
| (iii) Death ceremonies | 3 | — | 3 |
| (iv) Marriage and other ceremonies | 73 | — | 66 |
| (v) Education expenses | 3 | — | 3 |
| (vi) Litigation Charges | 1 | — | 1 |
| 4 Other expenditure (repayment of old debts) | 9 | 2 | 8 |

¹ All India Rural Credit Survey Report, Vol. III, p 264

According to a survey conducted by Dr D. S. Yadav in 10 villages regarding income and expenditure pattern in Churu district in the year 1958-59, the income pattern in Churu district¹ was as below .

(Income per family in rupees)

| source of income | Region | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Northern | Central | Southern | Whole district |
| Cultivation of land | 961.4 (68.5) | 713 9 (61 6) | 574 7 (54 0) | 715.6 (60 6) |
| Agricultural labour | 30.6 (2 2) | 47.3 (4.0) | 38.1 (3.6) | 43 2 (3.6) |
| Animal husbandry | 167 7 (11 9) | 191 4 (16.5) | 231 3 (21.6) | 198 1 (16 8) |
| Other services | 56.1 (4 0) | 64 5 (5 5) | 61 2 (5.7) | 62 6 (5 3) |
| Trade | 13 2 (1 0) | 9.8 (0 9) | 11 6 (1 1) | 10 8 (0 9) |
| Miscellaneous sources | 173 8 (12 4) | 134 1 (11.5) | 149 5 (14.0) | 151 4 (12 8) |
| Total | 1,402 8 (100.0) | 1,161.0 (100 0) | 1,066 4 (100 0) | 1,181 7 (100 0) |

The expenditure pattern in Churu district in 1958-59² was as follows

(Annual expenditure per family in rupees)

| Item of expenditure | Amount spent | Percentage of expenditure total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Food | 817 70 | 61 9 |
| Clothing | 194 19 | 14 7 |
| Housing | 66 09 | 5 0 |
| Fuel and light | 15 85 | 1 2 |
| Education and medicine | 60 77 | 4 6 |
| Social and conventional needs | 125.49 | 9 5 |
| Miscellaneous | 27 74 | 2 1 |
| Farm capital expenditure | 13 21 | 1 0 |
| Total | 1,321 00 | 100 0 |

1 D S Yadav, *Economics of Desert*, p 254 (unpublished thesis for Ph D)

N B Figures in bracket denote percentage of total income

2 *Ibid*, p 257.

EMPLOYMENT

Lack of industrialisation and inadequate means of communications and transport are some of the factors which have restricted the scope of employment opportunities to the minimum. Development programmes, famine relief works, expansion of community services like schools, hospitals, post offices etc have, however, provided some jobs but due to lack of proper housing facilities, inadequate water supply etc., and backwardness of the area even the meagre requirements of persons are not met with as is evident from data¹ given below.

| Year | Vacancies | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| | Notified | | Filled | |
| | Total | Unskilled | Total | Unskilled |
| 1961-62 | 624 | 296 | 442 | 281 |
| 1962-63 | 348 | 201 | 206 | 187 |
| 1963-64 | 261 | 197 | 271 | 181 |
| 1964-65 | 612 | 421 | 446 | 396 |
| 1965-66 | 747 | 384 | 435 | 306 |
| Total | 2,592 | 1,449 | 1,800 | 1,351 |

No comprehensive survey of the employment market has ever been undertaken. There is no Employment Office in the district to undertake any such study. The Employment Exchange, Bikaner, which was set up in 1946 concurrently looks after the work of the Churu district. The existing staff of the Employment Exchange, Bikaner, consists of one District Employment Officer, one Assistant Employment Officer, one Junior Employment Officer, one Guide, seven clerks and four class IV servants.

Registrations² effected in Churu district during the calendar year 1961 to 1966 are given below :

| Year | Registrations |
|------|---------------|
| 1961 | 1,801 |
| 1962 | 1,514 |
| 1963 | 1,393 |
| 1964 | 1,783 |
| 1965 | 1,959 |
| 1966 | 1,869 |

1 Employment Exchange Officer, Bikaner,

2 *ibid*

The table¹ below indicates the total employment in all establishments employing twenty five persons or more working in the private sector and total employment in public sector at the end of March each year.

| Year | Total Employment in | |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Private sector | Public sector |
| 1961 | 115 | 4,403 |
| 1962 | 116 | 5,661 |
| 1963 | 114 | 4,932 |
| 1964 | 116 | 5,416 |
| 1965 | 113 | 6,129 |
| 1966 | 117 | 6,035 |

The number of jobs occupied by women is also increasing which is evident from the following figures of employment at the end of March each year ²

| Year | Women employees in public sector |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1961 | 233 |
| 1962 | 353 |
| 1963 | 349 |
| 1964 | 319 |
| 1965 | 419 |
| 1966 | 431 |

The following statement gives the details of applicants on live register at the end of March each year ³

| Year | Applicants on live register | | |
|------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| 1961 | 455 | 12 | 467 |
| 1962 | 492 | 46 | 538 |
| 1963 | 531 | 47 | 578 |
| 1964 | 481 | 33 | 514 |
| 1965 | 590 | 52 | 642 |
| 1966 | 511 | 41 | 552 |

1 Employment Exchange Officer, Bikaner

2. *ibid*

3 *ibid*

The Employment Exchange collects quarterly information regarding employment, from employers on the basis of an Establishment Reporting System. The services of Employment Exchange are being increasingly used by employers as well as by the employees. Instructions have been issued by the Government of Rajasthan that all recruitment for Government or quasi-Government jobs should be done through Employment Exchanges, which are applicable to Churu district as well.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The concept of planning for economic and social development was introduced to the people of this district as early as 1941-42 when a Five Year Programme for the whole of the State of Bikaner (of which Churu was a sub-division) was formulated, which related to rural uplift, industrial and agricultural development through the use of latest scientific methods and machinery, improvement and extension of education, public health, sanitary conditions, water supply, technical and industrial training and other matters of vital concern to the welfare and progress of the people.

The Community Development Programme which was initiated in the State of Rajasthan in October, 1952, was introduced in Churu district in the year 1956-57 when a National Extension Service Block (First Stage) was opened at Sardarshahr in April 1956 covering an area of 2341 sq metres (1485 sq miles) and 177 villages with a population of about fifty four thousand. The National Extension Service movement symbolised an integrated extension agency, a multipurpose development programme, new extension methods and techniques of community mobilisation and a process of education. It included schemes for the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operation, rural industries, health and sanitation, rural communication, education and social reform. Thus it covered all aspects of rural life. The distinction between National Extension Service and Community Development blocks was abolished and new system consisting of stage I and stage II was introduced in April 1958.

The position¹ of Community Development blocks in Churu district as on 31-3-1966 was follows .

1 Development Commissioner, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

| Block | Date of opening | Stage | Area covered (km) | Villages covered (Nos) | Rural ¹ population ('000) |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Dungargarh | Oct , 1958 | II Stage | 2,937 | 94 | 50 |
| 2 Rajgarh | May, 1958 | II Stage | 2,133 | 186 | 97 |
| 3 Ratangarh | April, 1961 | I Stage | 1,568 | 93 | 53 |
| 4 Ratannagar | April, 1962 | I Stage | 1,488 | 89 | 52 |
| 5 Sardarshahr | April, 1956 | II Stage | 3,809 | 176 | 66 |
| 6. Sujangarh | May, 1960 | I Stage | 2,539 | 156 | 86 |
| 7 Taranagar | Oct , 1962 | I Stage | 1,787 | 110 | 47 |

On 2nd October, 1959, Panchayat Raj was introduced in Churu district, as a result of which Churu Zila Parishad was formed and blocks were changed to Panchayat Samitis. These Panchayat Samitis have been charged with the responsibilities of executing Community Development Programme through the extension staff posted on deputation to the Panchayat Samitis.

First Five Year Plan (1951-56)

The First Five Year Plan was of the nature of an emergency plan, designed to create the necessary infrastructure for initiation of planning. District-wise allocation of finances were not made during the First Five Year Plan.

Second Five Year Plan (1956-61)

The total expenditure in Churu district during the Second Five Year Plan period was Rs. 257.59 lac, the year-wise details are given below.

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in lac) |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1956-57 | 19.17 |
| 1957-58 | 34.10 |
| 1958-59 | 62.91 |
| 1959-60 | 55.43 |
| 1960-61 | 85.98 |
| Total | 257.59 |

The sub-joined table indicates the sector-wise expenditure on the various schemes operating in the district of Churu during the Second Five Year Plan, and the benefit from those accrued to the district only.

| Sector | Expenditure ¹ during 1956-61 (Rs in lacs) |
|--|---|
| 1. Agriculture | 11 28 |
| 2. Animal husbandry | 1.34 |
| 3. Co-operation | 2.70 |
| 4. Forests and soil conservation | 1.52 |
| 5. Community development and national extension service | 24 12 |
| 6. Power | 134 43 |
| 7. Industries | 2 06 |
| 8. Roads | 20.59 |
| 9. Education | 31 94 |
| 10. Medical and health | 4 60 |
| 11. Ayurved | 0.77 |
| 12. Housing | 1 78 |
| 13. Water supply | 18.05 |
| 14. Social welfare and welfare of backward classes | 1 30 |
| 15. Statistics | 0.04 |
| 16. Publicity | 1.07 |
| Total | 257.59 |

The per capita expenditure in the Second Plan on the basis of the 1961 Census works out to be Rs 39 09.

Third Five Year Plan (1961-66)

The Third Five Year Plan of the district was prepared by the Zila Parishad, Churu in consultation with Panchayat Samitis. Thus the concept of 'planning from below' materialised for the first time. Special emphasis was laid on agriculture and animal husbandry, irrigation, etc. Under the Third Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 207.01 lac

1. *Second Five Year Plan Progress Report, 1956-61*

was spent on various developmental schemes in the district Year-wise expenditure¹ during the Third Five Year Plan period in Churu district is shown in the following table

| Year | Expenditure (Rs in lac) |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 1961-62 | 40 76 |
| 1962-63 | 39 23 |
| 1963-64 | 36 42 |
| 1964-65 | 39 06 |
| 1965-66 | 51 54 |
| Total | 207 01 |

The sub-joined table indicates the sectorwise expenditure² on various schemes which were implemented in Churu district during the Third Five Year Plan period

| Sector | Expenditure during 1961-66 (Rs in lac) |
|---|---|
| 1. Agricultural production | 0 72 |
| 2. Minor irrigation | 2 55 |
| 3. Soil conservation | 0 85 |
| 4. Animal husbandry | 5 54 |
| 5. Forests | 0 58 |
| 6. Co-operation | 3 82 |
| 7. Community development | 36 82 |
| 8. Panchayats | 7 32 |
| 9. Village and small industries | 1 72 |
| 10. Roads | 46 09 |
| 11. General education and cultural programmes | 39 74 |
| 12. Modern medicines | 19 74 |
| 13. Ayurved | 0 89 |
| 14. Water supply | 35 73 |
| 15. Housing | 1 16 |
| 16. Welfare of backward class | 1 37 |
| 17. Social welfare | 0 04 |
| 18. Labour and labour welfare | 1 31 |
| 19. Statistics | 0 02 |
| Total | 207 01 |

1 *Tritiya Panch Vaishya Yojna-Pragati Prativedan* by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, p 233

2 *ibid*, p 235

The per capita expenditure in the Third Five Year Plan on the basis of 1961 population comes to Rs 31 41 as compared to Rs. 39 09 in the Second Five Year Plan

The completion of the Third Five Year Plan marked a concrete step in the development of the economy of the district during 1951-66. The production of gram and other pulses increased from 1 11 and 6 31 thousand tonnes respectively in the year 1952-53 to 4 29 and 38 21 thousand tonnes respectively in the year 1965-66. The total area sown in the district which was 662 5 thousand hectares in 1950-51 increased to 1124 7 thousand hectares in 1965-66. The co-operative societies increased from 33 in 1955-56 to 518 in 1965-66. Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries increased from 6 in 1957-58 to 10 in 1965-66. Hospitals and dispensaries increased from 35 in 1951 to 54 in 1965, and beds therein increased from 114 to 284 during the same period. The number of educational institutions, teachers and students increased from 355, 931 and 20,570 respectively in 1956-57 to 1140, 2,606 and 76,276 respectively in 1964-65. Literacy increased from 10.26 per cent in 1951 to 18 14 per cent in 1961.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Till the close of the nineteenth century the idea of a welfare state had not developed in Rajasthan. The administrations of the states were either autocratic, having as their objects the collection of revenues & maintenance of law and order, or at best benevolent spending a part of their income on education and charity as also on religious institutions. This pattern of administration continued in the erstwhile State of Bikaner of which Churu formed a part till Maharaja Ganga Singh took the reigns in 1898. During his reign schemes of public utility were undertaken which raised the standard of living of the people. After independence the concept of general administration underwent a drastic change and the emphasis shifted from mere collection of revenue and maintenance of law and order to execution of welfare and developmental schemes. With the introduction of the scheme of Democratic Decentralisation in 1959, the representatives of the people have also been associated with the administration at every level.

Present Pattern

The Churu district consists of three sub-divisions divided into seven tahsils. Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Dungargarh tahsils form the Ratangarh sub-division, Churu and Sardarshahr tahsils make Churu sub-division, while Rajgarh sub-division consists of Rajgarh and Taranagar (formerly known as Reni) tahsils. The district is in charge of an officer designated as Collector while sub-divisions and tahsils are each in charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer and a Tahsildar respectively.

The District is a unit of administration and Collector is the pivot on which the district administration revolves. He ensures that the general administration of the district functions as a corporate whole, as does the Government at the State level. He is the head of Revenue Department, District Magistrate and District Development Officer.

As incharge of land revenue collection, he has to devote much of his time to supervising the work of his subordinate revenue officers. Under the Land Revenue Act, he is the custodian of all Government

property in land and is required to safeguard the interests of the Government in this respect. He functions also as a guardian of the people in so far as their rights in land conceded by the Government are concerned. He ensures that the rights conferred to the tenants under the Rajasthan Tenancy Act are not encroached upon. He works as the highest court of appeal in the district for revenue matters within the scope of the Rajasthan Land Records Act and the Rajasthan Tenancy Act.

As a District Magistrate, he is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. This he does with the help of the police under a Superintendent of Police who is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent of Police. As District Magistrate, he functions within the scope of the Criminal Procedure Code and exercises control over the Magistrates posted within the district. He is also an appellate authority for the orders passed by subordinate Magistrates under section 514 Cr. P. C. His functions also include supervision of police stations within his jurisdiction and examination of their records of crimes and disposal of cases. In his executive capacity, the District Magistrate issues and renews licences under Arms Act, Petroleum Act, Explosives Act etc.

In his district, the Collector is the ex-officio District Development Officer and as such ensures co-ordination between the development departments functioning in the district. Since the establishment of Panchayati Raj institutions at District, Block and Panchayat levels in the year 1959, the duties and functions of the Collector have increased considerably. He has to superintend the working of all development departments to ensure that adequate technical assistance is made available in time to the Village Panchayats and the Panchayat Samitis and that the Zila Parishads are kept informed of the progress achieved in the implementation of plans and schemes in the district. Over the district officers of various development departments, the Collector exercises functional control to see that the time fixed for implementation of various schemes is adhered to and targets are achieved. All welfare schemes are formulated and finalised in consultation with the District Development Officer. A meeting of all the District Level Officers is held at least once in every three months to watch the progress of development schemes and to suggest measures to improve their working. The Collector presides over such meetings. He is also authorised to make changes in the four programmes of

District Level Officers to co-ordinate the execution of different schemes going on in the district

There is a District Treasury to account for every transaction in the district on behalf of the Government. The Collector functions as an officer who is over all incharge of treasury and is responsible for its general administration, for accounting of all money received and paid, for the safe custody of all valuables kept therein, and for submission of correct treasury returns to the Accountant General and to the State Government from time to time. However, he takes no part in the day-to-day working of the treasury. For this purpose a Treasury Officer is posted in the district who is directly responsible to the Collector and attends to all the treasury transactions in the district. The Treasury Officer is assisted by sub-Treasury Officers stationed at each tahsil. The posts of sub-Treasury Officers are held by respective Tahsildars in addition to their own revenue duties. They are responsible to the District Treasury Officer so far as fiscal matters are concerned.

Besides the duties and functions stated above, the Collector is required to look after the work of supplies of essential commodities, floods and famine relief, rehabilitation of ex-soldiers, issue and renewal of licences, elections, registration of documents etc. For performing these duties, he is assisted by additional staff. For supply work, a separate office supervised by a District Supply Officer functions in the district.

The work of the Collectorate is divided into ten sections. They are (i) Establishment, (ii) Revenue, (iii) Land Records, (iv) Panchayat and Development, (v) General, (vi) District Revenue Accounts, (vii) Judicial, (viii) Accounts, (ix) Section dealing with case work, and (x) Records. The total strength of the staff consists of one Office Superintendent, one Stenographer, one District Revenue Accountant, one *Sadar Kanungo*, one Assistant *Sadar Kanungo*, four Land Record Inspectors, besides other auxiliary staff.

Directly subordinate to the Collector are three Sub-Divisional Officers-cum-Sub-Divisional Magistrates headquartered at Churu, Ratanagarh and Rajgarh. They are vested with First Class Magisterial powers and are supposed to function within the purview of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In revenue matters, they have powers of an Assistant Collector and are required to discharge their duties as defined in the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act and Manual and the Rajasthan Tenancy



Collectorate, Churu, the keystone of district administrative machinery

Act. They enjoy the same executive powers within their jurisdiction as are enjoyed by the Collector in the district.

Under the Sub-Divisional Officers are seven Tahsildars who function both as Magistrates and Revenue Officers within the scope of Code of Criminal Procedure and the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act and Manual respectively. There are Naib-Tahsildars also to assist the Tahsildars in their day-to-day working. The tahsil staff consists of one Reader, one Accounts Clerk and one Lower Division Clerk. Next comes the *Girdawar* who is incharge of a *girdawar* circle. He is also known as Revenue Inspector and is entrusted with the duty of supervising the work of Patwaris in his area. A *patwari* forms the lowest rung of the hierarchical ladder of the district administration. The actual collection of land revenue is done at his level. He maintains all the registers of land and records the actual realisation of revenue and is required to report any untoward happening in his *halka* to his higher authorities. He also maintains a census register of men and cattle in his *halka*.

The judicial and police departments form an important part of the horizontal line of administration. The District and Sessions Judge, headquartered at Bikaner, exercises control over the working of all civil and criminal courts within the district of Churu also and he is the highest judicial appellate authority. The next highest judicial officer is the Civil and Additional Sessions Judge stationed at Churu. The Police department is represented by a Superintendent of Police in the district who helps the Collector in maintaining law and order and works for prevention of crimes. He is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent of Police, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and other subordinate staff.

Other constituents of the horizontal line of administration are the District Level Officers incharge of various development and welfare departments. Their list is as follows :

1. District Medical and Health Officer, Ratangarh.
2. District Agriculture Officer, Churu.
3. District Animal Husbandry Officer Churu.
4. Commercial Taxes Officer, Churu.
5. Executive Engineer, P W D (Project), Churu.
6. Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department (Water Works), Churu

7. Executive Engineer, Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Ratangarh.
8. Executive Engineer, Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Churu.
9. Project Officer, Small Scale Industries, Churu
10. Public Relations Officer, Churu
11. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Churu.
12. District Sheep and Wool Officer, Churu.
13. Inspector of Ayurvedic Department, Churu
14. District Employment Officer, Bikaner (His jurisdiction also extends to Churu district)
15. Inspector, Social Welfare, Churu
16. Inspector, Weights and Measures, Churu.

The functions of these officers are described in the relevant Chapters.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Historical Aspect

Due to lack of old records it is not possible to trace the system of revenue assessment prevalent in the period, prior to the foundation of Rathor dynasty by Rao Bika in the area, now comprising the present district of Churu. Major part of the territory was under the occupation of the Chayals, Chauhans, Bhatias and the northern portions of the district under the various Jat tribes. The Jats claimed all the land as they had been residing there before the Rathors occupied it and this claim was inherited by their descendants, who used to divide the land among themselves for cultivation. It appears probable that in the early period of their conquest, the Rathors could not exercise any definite claim on the land as landlords. However, it was possible only in the seventeenth century, when the rulers had strengthened their position and tightened their grip over the area.

In *Ain-i-Akbari*, this area formed a part of the *Sarkar* of Nagaur in the *Subha* of Ajmer, and contained thirty one *mahals*. The *sarkar* yielded a revenue amounting to 4,03,89,830 *Dams*, out of which the Dronpur *mahal* alone contributed 7,80,085 *dams* ¹.

From the available records and the references therein, we learn that after the seventeenth century the methods of assessment varied considerably from one part to the other ². The most common method in use was to measure the area held by each cultivator every second or third year and assess the revenue for each cultivated bigha. The cultivator used to pay the rent called *hasil* or *rakam*, alongwith other cesses (*lag*) to the Government. As there was no fixed sum for the entire land of a village, the Government revenue fluctuated with yearly increase or decrease in the cultivated area due to the climatic conditions. Occasionally, a share of the actual produce, either by actual division (*batai*) or by appraisement (*Kankut*), would be taken from each cultivator sometimes instead of sometimes in addition to,

a cash rent¹ Specially in this eastern portion of the erstwhile State of Bikaner a lump sum assessment (*ijara*) was annually fixed for a village and distributed over the entire cultivated area, excluding the land held by the *chaudharis* and some of the village servants.

In certain parts, the revenue was collected by a system, known as *angah bachh*, which had no connection with cultivated area or area held and was a combination of rates on ploughs and catt'e with a poll-tax and some additional taxes The demand used to be assessed by houses, each of which paid the following taxes yearly²— (i) *halgat* or Rs 3/ per bullock plough and Rs. 5/- per camel plough, (ii) *angah* or Rs 1-4-0 per cow, Rs 1-8-0 per buffalo, Rs 1-12-0 per camel, (iii) *dhuan* or house tax of Rs. 2-8-0 per house, (iv) *rakhwali* or protection fee of Rs. 2/- per house and (v) *pagri* or poll tax of Rs 1-4-0 per adult male The rates varied from place to place The *hali* (a particular class of agricultural labourers) handed over to the Government, one-fifth³ of the produce instead of paying *halgat* The demand was assessed in lump sums, from house to house varying with the financial condition of the inmates and was called *bhent-ka-bachh*

The local officers called *havildars* used to collect revenue from *Hakumats* or *tahsils* They paid the fixed amount to the *Raj* on the understanding that whatever they would collect beyond the fixed amount to be paid to Government, would be their profit The *chaudharis* as agents of *havildars*, extorted as much amount as they could, but paid only the fixed amount, to the *Raj*, retaining the extra amount for themselves Sometimes at the instance of the *havildars* the *chaudharis* compelled the cultivators, having no ready money with them, to get money on loan from the *bohra* (local trader) who was free to exact as much amount as he wished from the cultivators in lieu of the timely payment to the *havildars* A tax was also realised, known as *bhunga*,⁴ from the cattle-owners, who in order to graze the cattle, drove them from village to village, at the rate of four annas per cow, eight annas per buffalo and one rupee per camel However, the *chaudharis* and their relatives were exempted from the payment of this tax.

1 *Report on the Administration of the Bikaner State*, 1893-94, p 81

2 *ibid*, p 82

3 *ibid*, p 82.

4 *ibid*, p 83.

The *chaudharis* could get a *sanad* for the purpose of cultivation and colonisation of waste land from the *Raj*. On payment of an induction fee (*haqq-daul*) of rupee one to the *chaudharis*, the new cultivators could appropriate and break up land for cultivation. Some *chaudharis* in lieu of their services to the *Raj*, were permitted to hold certain areas of land on half (*adhkar*) or the whole (*subkar*) rent fee basis. Besides the amount of rent, the *chaudharis* appropriated for themselves a certain amount in lieu of fees at marriages and weighment taxes (*dharat*) from the cultivators. Other *chaudharis* received only a fixed sum known as *nankar* (subsistence) and an allowance of five per cent (*pachotra*) on the collection of rent from villages. The *chaudharis* were always permitted to collect an amount equal to the *hasil* or *rakam* (to be paid to the *Raj*) in the name of *malba* (village expenses) from each cultivator, and they used to share it between them and the *Raj* officials. Thus the status of the *chaudharis* had become that of a sub-farmer responsible for a fixed sum rather than that of rent collector only.

Settlement (1885-1886)

Summary Settlement of the *khalsa* villages was undertaken in 1884 to assess and collect the amount on some uniform system in place of the haphazard methods prevalent at that time. The settlement operations were supervised and controlled by Sohan Lal, the Revenue Officer.¹ It was a very rough settlement; the maps were not drawn to scale and were little better than rude sketches, and the fields having been plotted in, for the most part, by the eye, but still they showed the general shape of the village boundaries and the approximate position of the fields within them.² These operations were completed in v.s. 1943 (1886).³ As a first measure this settlement was introduced for a period of five years and subsequently extended to eight years.

As per this settlement, a change was made in the principle of assessment. Now each village was assessed at a lump sum for the payment of which the *chaudharis* were held responsible jointly, the responsibility of each being measured by his share in the *Chaudhar* of the village. The sum assessed on each village was calculated by applying suitable rates to the cultivated and waste areas, and these

1. *Report on the Administration of the Bikaner State, 1893-94*, p. 83

2. Erskine *The Western Rajputana States and the Bikaner Agency* (1909), p. 379.

3. *Report on the Administration of the Bikaner State, 1893-94*, p. 83

rates were of a uniform character throughout a circle or a division of a tahsil. The *chaudharis* were allowed to collect only at the rates used for fixing the lump sum assessment of the village and to appropriate any miscellaneous profits from waste land or from increased cultivation, which might remain with them after the lump sum assessment had been paid. The *chaudharis* were not empowered to eject any cultivator, who paid the rent.

The following were the rates used for collecting the revenue¹

| Tahsil Nizamat | Rates | | |
|-------------------|------------|---|------------|
| | Cultivated | Waste | |
| | | Occupied | Unoccupied |
| Rajgarh Tahsil | 4as.3p | 6 pies | 3 pies |
| Churu Tahsil | Various | | |
| Sujangarh Nizamat | Various | (Rates are per bigha which was equivalent to 0.37 acre) | |

The rates proposed for assessment of the revenue were

| | Tahsil/Nizamat | Cultivated | Waste |
|---|-------------------|------------|-------|
| 1 | Rajgarh Tahsil | 2as 6p. | 6p |
| 2 | Churu Tahsil | 2as | 3p |
| 3 | Sujangarh Nizamat | 2as | 3p. |

The average of the five years income of the State, previous to the summary settlement, was Rs 3,08,950/- The Summary Settlement assessed the revenue at Rs 4,06,932/- thereby increasing the income by Rs 97,982/- a year.

As there was no uniform policy adopted for the whole State because of defective settlement, it gave substantial loss of revenue whenever a cultivator left the village or abandoned his holdings, which was quite frequent because of poor quality of soil, frequent draught and famines. The State also lost revenue because of lack of proper administration of unoccupied waste land.

Settlement (1894-95)

The first regular settlement was made by P J Fagan, an Assistant Commissioner of the Punjab, in 1892-93. His services were lent to the State as Settlement Officer. This Settlement came into force in '894-95 for a period of ten years.

¹ Report on the Administration of the Bikaner State, 1893-94, p. 87

SURVEY—It was a regular survey and was carried out with the plane table in the *Khalsa* area. The chain used was known as the *pukka jariba*, $82\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, and a square of two chains was equal to one *pukka bigha* or five-eighth of an acre. Elsewhere, the chain was the local one, $63\frac{3}{4}$ feet in length, and a square of two of them was equal to one *Bikaneri bigha* ($0\ 37$ an acre). After measuring the area of each village, the boundaries were marked on a map. The *Khasia* (field register) containing the name of the holder and the area of each field in serial order, was prepared. In the *Khatauni* (showing the groups of separate holdings) the fields were arranged according to their location.

Assessment

The principles of assessment were changed and each village was assessed at a lump sum to be collected by the *chaudhari* who was held responsible for the revenue due to the Darbar. This time the rates were kept uniform throughout an assessment circle or sub-division of a tahsil. The unoccupied waste-land was assessed after deducting one-third or one-fourth of its area, and the occupied waste land at a higher rate than the former category. In order to fix the amount of assessment, the total collection of previous years was regarded as an important factor for fixation of the revenue. The rates fixed were Rs 0-3-9 to Rs 0-5-3 per bigha for the cultivated land and from 2 pice to one anna per bigha for the occupied waste

As a result of the settlement, the land revenue demand for the *Khalsa* villages of the State was fixed at Rs 3,99,054

The *chaudhari* was now the agent who was allowed to collect the revenue for the land entered in the measurement papers of the village, at the fixed rates. He realised grazing fee from the outside cattle. The profits from *Sajji* growing on the unoccupied waste went to *chaudharis* who were no longer permitted to hold any piece of land rent-free or any property right on land. In lieu of his services, he was permitted to have five per cent (*pachotra*) on the fixed assessment of the village on the condition that the dues pertaining to his charge were fully paid by him to the State.

The term of this Settlement was originally fixed at ten years, but in 1903 it was extended by 6 years more.

In 1909 (v s. 1965), the settlement and survey operations were again taken in hand, and as a result thereof, the demand increased to

Rs. 7,93,656, of which a sum of Rs 1,67,135 was on account of new *Khalsa* villages and the rest due to large influx of settlers in the Suratgarh *Nizamat* (now in Ganganagar district). This Settlement (1909-11) was completed within two years but it was not put into force for a few years more.

In 1912, G D. Rudkin was appointed as Revenue Commissioner and later on served the State as the Revenue Minister. He retained the fundamental principles, initiated by Fagan in 1894 and no important changes in the rates of assessment were made. This system continued up to 1912, then the term of the Settlement was extended to the end of 1921-22. Rudkin initiated the policy of appointing trained and experienced staff for the work. Consequently, the general tone and standard of revenue administration was improved.

Regular settlement operations were taken up in hand in 1925-26, under the supervision of Jai Gopal, Revenue Commissioner. The length of the chain, used for measurement, was 127½ feet. The soil was classified as *pala*, *bilapala* and *bunjar*. The rates proposed for the assessment of revenue for the different tahsils were as follows

| Tehsil | <i>Pala</i> | <i>Bilapala</i> | <i>Bunjar</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ratangarh | 3as 3p | 2as 3p | 1 anna |
| Dungargarh | 2as 6p to 2as 9p | 2as. 6p | 1 anna |
| Sardarshahr | 2as 6p | as. to 2as 6p | 9p. to 1 anna |
| Sujangarh | 5as. | 4as 7p | 1 anna 8p |
| Reni (Taranagar) | 5as. | — | 11 p. |
| Churu | 3as 11p to 4as. 8p | — | — |

This Settlement became operative in 1926-27 and remained in force for 30 years i.e. up to 1955-56.

During the reign of Maharaja Ganga Singh, the land was categorised as (i) *Khalsa* (crown land), (ii) Jagir (held by grantees), and (iii) *Sasan* (granted to religious institutions).

In the *Khalsa* land, the proprietary rights belonged to the *Ray* and the cultivator's right of occupancy depended on his ability to meet the demand of the revenue. The *Khalsa* land comprised nearly 32 per cent of the total area of the State.

Largely as a result of frequent campaigns and foreign invasions, the relatives of the rulers and Rajput associates were assigned land, for raising and maintaining forces, called Jagir. The jagir land was of two types—(i) held by the near relatives of the ruler on revenue-free basis and (ii) held by other Rajputs in lieu of their past services rendered to the State. Some villages and portions thereof, were held revenue-free either by the *ramis* or near relations of the ruler, known as *Rajvis*, or connected by marriage (*parsangis*) or by those *thakurs* whose estates had been attached or confiscated but to whom lands had been given for maintenance. The land, granted as reward for services rendered to the State, could be resumed by the ruler if the holder gave cause of offence to the ruler. Its holders besides *rekhi* (a cess), used to pay another cess called *neota* on the new ruler's accession to the *gadi* of the State. It was fixed at one-fifth of the estimated annual income of the jagir. Besides, they were also required to pay certain sums on special occasions as the marriage of the ruler or the birth of an heir to the *gadi*.

The *sasan* lands were granted to temples for their maintenance or in charity to *brahmans* and *charans* and were held free and practically in perpetuity. Lastly, there were *bhumias* who were all Rajputs and held a good deal of land. They paid no revenue, but some of them had to pay certain taxes, and in return, they guarded their villages, followed up the tracks of criminals, escorted treasure, etc.

The jagirdars (*Pattadars*) were the nobles of the State and were of two categories *tazimi* and non-*tazimi*. The *tazimi* nobles included the four important nobles of the State called as *Sirayats* viz., of Mahajan, Bidasar, Rawatsar and Bhukarka jagirs. The number of *tazimi* nobles varied from ruler to ruler. Most of them were employed on important posts in the State.

They served the ruler with troops, horsemen, camel *sowars* or foot soliders, in accordance with the size and income of their jagirs. But Maharaja Ratan Singh (1829–51) commuted this service to cash payment called *rekhi* at the rate of Rs 60/- per horseman. This sum was subsequently raised to Rs 125/- and increased from time to time by the addition of certain taxes.

The villages held under jagirs were called *Chiras* (Circles) where no *Raj* official resided. But at a certain season of the year, the official used to tour each *Chira* to collect whatever he could, under all the possible heads, in addition to revenue head. There were no

limitations to his power. This person was known as *Chirayat* whose greed for money was insatiable. This was also one of the factors which caused the disaffection amongst the jagirdars against the ruler.¹

In 1869, most of the leading *thakurs* combined to resist the extortions of the ruler. However, it was arranged that they should pay at the rate of Rs 200/- per horseman for a term of ten years, after which it would be reconsidered. After the expiry of the term, the ruler proposed to further enhance the rates and a committee was constituted for the purpose. The *Sardars* rebelled against the ruler, who was successful in soliciting the intervention of the Government of India for final settlement, which was arrived at in May 1884. It fixed permanently the sum payable to the ruler and abolished certain cesses but other cesses which were common in other Rajput States, were retained. Thus the fixed tribute called *rakam* alongwith the *rekh* and *rekhwali* (protection fee) were paid by them to the Darbar. The yearly *rakam* was usually one-third of the income of the *pattadar* or jagirdar. They used to pay one year's revenue as *nazrana* or *hukmanama* on succession, as well as *neota* cess fixed as one-fifth of their annual income and certain amount on the ruler's marriage. They were further required to keep their estates in flourishing conditions (*abad*) and their cultivators contented by collecting the revenue at reasonable rates. They were also required to serve the Maharaja and to abstain from harbouring or assisting any of his enemies. In return they used to receive presents from the ruler on the occasions of marriages and funerals in their families. The rulers used to extort a cess called *talab*, or a fine for non-payment or late payment of *rekh*. The *sardars* had to pay certain other taxes such as *zakat* a tax on sale, purchase and transit of grains, cattle, etc. Some of the cesses charged by the ruler were as follows

Hazur-ki-Sawari or a present of a camel or a horse or cash at the time of the passing of a Maharaja through the Jagirdar's village, *Sarkar-Angrez-ki-Habub* or the expense of supplying transport to the British Government in emergency (levied on the whole of the State), etc

A Court of Wards was established in 1894, for the better administration of Jagirs. Whenever the court took over a jagir, a *Kamdar* was appointed to collect revenue and look after its other administrative

1 Powlett *Gazetteer of the Bikaner State*, (Reprint 1935), p 102

affairs All the *Kamdars* of such estates were placed under an who acted as a deputy to the *Nazim* of the concerned *Nizamat*

In 1946-47, there were 164 estates under the Court of Wards, out of which 132 were directly managed by the State ¹

In 1912, a Round Table Conference of *Tazimi Sardars* was called to discuss the matters relating the State and the Jagirdars. It resulted in their close co-operation with the State administration. In 1921, again, the nobles were invited to a conference. Thus by calling such conferences now and then the jagirdars were kept in close touch with the administration

Settlement in Jagir areas

No settlement had been carried out in the jagir areas till 1941. The Jagirdars used to fix rent arbitrarily and the rate in 1940 was double of what was realised in the *Khalsa* areas. Their officials went from field to field to assess the produce and the methods of assessment were *latai* and *batai*. By the *latai* method the yield of the standing crop was assessed and estimated. The *batai* method was employed after the grain had been procured from the crop in assessing the produce to fix the Jagirdar's share. The assessed quantity was paid to the Jagirdar at his door, and its rates varied from 1/3rd to 1/6th from village to village. The Jagirdars, however, could realise revenue arbitrarily and never tried to maintain the records properly

Under the reign of Maharaja Ganga Singh (1887-1943), a regular land revenue system was introduced. The system of cash revenue realisation was introduced in all the jagirs and the revenue rates were fixed. They varied from annas two to annas ten per bigha according to the quality of the land. The State land Revenue and Tenancy Acts (1945) were made applicable to Jagir areas in the year 1945.

The Settlement operations in the Jagir villages of the district (tahsilwise) and the years of operations, the duration of the settlement etc. are given in the following table.

1 26 due to minority and 90 due to indebtedness, eight due to succession disputes, two due to mismanagement, two due to *Pattedar* being invalid, four due to other reasons, vide the *Report on the Administration of the Bikaner State* for the year 1946-47, p 168

| Name of Tahsil | Year of Settlement Operations | Year of the completion of the Settlement | Term of Settlement |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Churu | 1942-43 | 1952 | 10 years |
| Sujangarh | 1942-43 | 1951-52 | 10 years |
| Dungargarh and Sardarshahr | 1951-52 | 1956-57 | 6 years |
| Ratangarh | 1951-52 | 1962-63 | 12 years |
| Taranagar | 1945-46 | 1956-57 | 12 years |
| Rajgarh | 1946 | 1957 | 12 years |

The settlement operations in the Jagir areas of the Churu, Taranagar, Rajgarh and Sujangarh tahsils were undertaken before the merger of the State of Bikaner into Rajasthan, while in the remaining tahsils they were taken up after the merger.

For the measurement of the land of Jagir villages the chain used was 165 feet in length. The soil was classified into cultivated and non-cultivated areas which were further divided into *Pala*, *Bilapala* and *Banjar*.

The following statement gives the tahsilwise rates of revenue assessment according to the classified soils

| Name of Tahsil | Name of Circle | Rates per bigha | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | <i>Pala</i> | <i>Bilapala</i> | <i>Banjar</i> |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Sujangarh | 1. | 0.57 | 0.47 | 0.24 |
| | 2. | 0.47 | 0.40 | 0.22 |
| | 3. | 0.34 | 0.31 | 0.11 |
| | 4. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.09 |
| Taranagar | Northern Circle | 0.31 | 0.28 | - |
| | North-east | 0.28 | 0.25 | - |
| | Southern I | 0.37 | - | - |
| | Southern II | 0.31 | 0.28 | - |
| Ratangarh | 1. | 0.50 | 0.45 | 0.16 |
| | 2 | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.12 |
| | 3 | 0.31 | 0.27 | 0.09 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------|
| | | <i>Talab</i> | <i>Barani</i> | |
| Rajgarh | <i>Nadi Mandal</i> | 0.65 to | 0 29 to 0 36 | - |
| | (River Circle) | 1 17 | | |
| | <i>Taliba circle</i> | - | 0 31 to 0 38 | - |
| | <i>Tiba</i> | - | 0.27 to 0 33 | - |
| Sardarshahr | 1. | 0 30 | 0 27 | 0 10 |
| | 2. | 0 27 | 0.24 | 0 08 |
| | 3 | 0.24 | 0 20 | 0 06 |
| Dungargarh | 1. | 0.30 | 0.27 | 0 09 |
| | 2. | 0 27 | 0 23 | 0 09 |
| | 3 | 0.23 | 0 23 | 0.06 |

After Merger

After the merger of the erstwhile State of Bikaner into Rajasthan the headquarters of the Settlement Officer were shifted in 1951-52 to Phalodi (District Jodhpur) and thence in 1954 the district was put under the jurisdiction of the Settlement Officer, Pali, headquartered at Jodhpur. In 1958, this office was again shifted back to Bikaner where, since then, a Settlement Officer is working directly under the control and supervision of the Settlement Commissioner, Rajasthan, Jaipur. The Bikaner Office controls and directs the working of all the three districts viz., Bikaner, Churu and Ganganagar.

Due to the expiry of the term of the previous Settlement in almost all the taluqs of the district, fresh settlement operations were taken up in 1957-58.

The following table gives the rates per bigha, according to the categories of soils

(in rupees)

| Circles | Rates per Bigha | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Barani I | Barani II |
| 1. <i>Dhora</i> I | 0 30 | 0 25 |
| 2. <i>Dhora</i> II | 0 25 | 0 20 |
| 3. <i>Dhora</i> III | 0 20 | 0 15 |

The term fixed for this Settlement, is of twenty years i.e., v s 2016 to v s 2035 (1959 to 1978 A D).

Sardarshahr Tahsil

After the expiry of the last Settlement in October 1958, Settlement operations were taken up again and completed in July, 1960.

In all 177 villages of this tahsil (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Khalsa* villages, 162 $\frac{1}{2}$ resumed, Jagir villages and one *Dharmada* religious grant village) were surveyed. The chain, used for measurement was 165 feet in length. In all, 15,926 bighas of land was surveyed. The land was classified into *Dhoras* - of three categories and soil into three-as Barani I, II and III categories.

The assessment rates were arrived at on the uniform principle as described above in the description of the Dungargarh tahsil.

The following table gives the rates per bigha for the different circles :

(in rupees)

| Circles | Rates per Bigha | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| | Barani I | Barani II | Barani III |
| 1. <i>Dhora</i> I (Northern) | 0 35 | 0 30 | 0 25 |
| 2. <i>Dhora</i> I (Southern) | 0 35 | 0 30 | 0.25 |
| 3. <i>Dhora</i> II | 0 30 | 0 25 | 0 20 |
| 4. <i>Dhora</i> III | 0 25 | 0.20 | 0.15 |

This settlement is to remain in force upto v.s. 2037 (1980 A D) i.e. for twenty years

Rajgarh Tahsil

All the 188 villages (73 Khalsa and 115 resumed jagir villages) were to be taken up for fresh settlement in 1957 when the term of the previous settlement expired. But the actual operations could start only in March 1962. The previously drawn maps were corrected and the chain used had a length of 165 feet. The total area surveyed was divided into three and the soil was classified into four classes. Revised rates were in uniformity with the other tahsils i.e. of the one-sixth yearly average produce, calculated on the basis of the produce of the preceeding ten years.

| Circles | Rates per Bigha (in Rupees) | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Barani Alif | Barani First | Barani Second | Barani Third |
| 1. <i>Martyal</i> | 0 95 | 0.75 | 0.55 | 0 40 |
| 2. <i>Sonthal</i> | — | 0.60 | 0 45 | 0 30 |
| 3. <i>Thal</i> | — | 0 40 | 0 35 | 0.30 |

The rent report submitted to the Government was sanctioned in June 1967. The term of the Settlement is twenty years i.e. v s 2021 to 2040 (1964 to 1984 A.D.)

Taranagar Tahsil

The settlement of 106 villages of this tahsil covering an area of 7,20,542 bighas (containing 17 *khalsa*, 84 resumed jagir and five *Mushtarka* undivided villages), was due in 1956, but it was taken up in 1962. A chain, 165 feet in length was used for measurement, and for other purposes uniform policy in calculating rates per bigha was adopted.

The following statement gives the details of the classification of soil and limitations of various circles in the tahsil.

| Circle | Rates per Bigha (in rupees) | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Barani First | Barani Second | Barani Third |
| 1. <i>Dhora first</i> | 0 40 | 0 35 | 0.30 |
| 2. <i>Dhora second</i> | 0 35 | 0.30 | 0 25 |

The term of the settlement commenced on 1 7 1965 and will be in vogue upto 30th June, 1985 (i.e. for 20 years' duration).

Sujangarh Tahsil

In 1964, the settlement operations were begun in 155 villages ($7\frac{1}{2}$ *Khalsa* and $147\frac{1}{2}$ resumed jagir villages)¹ The total area under the operations was 2,662.40 sq km (1,040 sq miles). The tahsil area was divided into four divisions—East, South West and North—looking to soil classes and other natural factors. The East division, being the best, was placed in the first category, while the South, West and North were allotted second, third and fourth categories respectively. The division of the land, the classification of the soil and the rates per bigha are given below

| Class of Soil | | Rates per bigha (in rupees) | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | First (East) | Second (South) | Third (West) | Fourth (North) |
| 1. | <i>Chahi</i> I | 5.60 | 4.90 | 3.50 | — |
| 2. | <i>Chahi</i> II | 4.40 | 3.85 | 2.75 | — |
| 3. | <i>Baram Andar Jao</i> | 1.20 | 1.00 | 0.75 | — |
| 4. | <i>Uftada</i> | 0.40 | 0.35 | 0.25 | — |
| 5. | <i>Sevej</i> | 1.60 | 1.40 | — | — |
| 6. | <i>Baram</i> I | 0.80 | 0.70 | 0.50 | 0.40 |
| 7. | <i>Baram</i> II | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.30 |
| 8. | <i>Baram</i> III | 0.40 | 0.35 | 0.25 | 0.20 |

But the above mentioned rates are yet to be sanctioned by the Government

The settlement operations in Ratangarh and Churu tahsils are yet to be taken up

The district has been divided into three sub-divisions Churu, Rajgarh and Ratangarh, each of which is further divided into tahsils. The following table gives the number of the sub-divisions, tahsils, *Girdawar* Circles (Inspection Circles) and *Patwar Halkas* (Revenue Circles).

1 The distinction between the *Khalsa* and Jagir villages does not exist since the resumption of the Jagirs. The Settlement Report, therefore, deals with all the villages as *Khalsa*

| Sub-Divisions | Tahsils | Girdawar Circles | Patwar Halkas |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Churu | 1 Churu | 4 | 25 |
| | 2 Sardarshahr | 6 | 40 |
| 2. Rajgarh | 1 Rajgarh | 6 | 41 |
| | 2. Taranagar | 4 | 24 |
| 3. Ratangarh | 1. Ratangarh | 3 | 25 |
| | 2. Sujangarh | 5 | 37 |
| | 3. Dungargarh | 4 | 28 |
| Total | 7 | 32 | 220 |

The actual location of *Girdawar* circles as well as *Patwar Halkas* are given in the Appendix I

Income from Land Revenue

The land revenue of the erstwhile Bikaner State (now divided in three districts of Bikaner, Churu and Ganganagar) was Rs 5,80,321 in the year 1883-84. The record of the revenue of the erstwhile Bikaner State is available yearwise from 1887 onwards, but it is not possible to know the amount of revenue collected from the area now grouped in this district for want of detailed break-up of the revenue.

The demand, collection, and balance of land revenue are given below for the Churu district for the period 1957-58 to 1965-66¹

(Rupees in lakh)

| Year | Demand | Collection | Balance |
|---------|--------|------------|---------|
| 1957-58 | 13.31 | 7.22 | 6.08 |
| 1958-59 | 11.52 | 6.47 | 5.05 |
| 1959-60 | 5.97 | 3.06 | 2.91 |
| 1961-62 | 15.12 | 13.69 | 1.43 |
| 1962-63 | 22.08 | 11.22 | 10.86 |
| 1965-66 | 29.39 | 26.28 | 3.11 |

Due to the adverse climatic conditions, remission of land revenue was allowed during the years 1957-58 and 1959-60 only to the extent of Rs 1.02 lakh and Rs 1.34 lakh respectively, after 1956-57.

¹ *Statistical Abstracts, Rajasthan* from the year 1958 to 1967.

Position of tenants

Before the formation of Rajasthan there were written tenancy laws in the Bikaner State of which this district had been a part, but those enactments were of a conservative nature. They merely legalised the prevailing customs or practices. In 1942, the tenants, as per the Bikaner Government Orders, were declared *Khatedars* if they held land for twenty years or more, and other tenants were recorded as *ghair Dhakhulkars* (temporary cultivators). Full rights of transfer were recognised in the case of occupancy tenants in the State. The tenants were required to pay *nazrana* (premium) as the price of acquiring rights of transfer. Even after the payment of *nazrana* transfers were subject to the previous sanction of the ruler.

The tenants of the Jagirdars could not acquire occupancy rights like the tenants of the State. The Jagirdars were owners, for all intents and purposes, of the land, and payment made by them to the State had no bearing on the actual amount realised from their tenants. In most of the jagir areas, rent realised ranged between one-half to one-eighth. In the unsettled jagir areas, the tenants were more or less tenants-at-will. They were made to pay many levies some of which were as follows ¹

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | <i>Malba Pachotra</i> | - to meet the actual expenses of the officials on duty for collection of revenue from the <i>thikanas</i> |
| 2. | <i>Nanwa</i> | - the expense in maintaining the accounts book. |
| 3 | <i>Korad</i> | - fodder for the maintenance of horses and camels of the Jagirdars. |
| 4. | <i>Begār</i> or forced labour | — |
| 5. | <i>Khuntabandi</i> and <i>Pancharai</i> | - grazing fee realised in respect of camels, sheep and goats |
| 6 | <i>Shraddha</i> Levy | - the jagirdars used to obtain <i>ghee</i> and milk from tenants for celebrating the <i>Shraddha</i> of their forefathers. |

1 Dr B P Gupta *Growth of Administration in Bikaner State (1818-1947)* Chapter X, pp 287-325, unpublished Ph D Thesis, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Abolition of Jagirs

With a view to abolishing the jagir system, the Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs Act (1952) was brought into force on 18th February, 1952. This Act was challenged by the Jagirdars and, therefore, remained unimplemented for over two years. As a result of the Nehru Award, the original Act was amended in several aspects by the Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs (Amendment) Act, 1954. For the abolition of cash Jagirs or grants of money by way of Jagirs, the Rajasthan Cash Jagir Abolition Act, 1958 was enacted. It provided for the resumption of Jagirs and the compensation payable to a Jagirdar was fixed to be seven times his net income, calculated in accordance with the provisions contained in the Act. Consequently the jagirs were resumed and compensation paid to the jagirdars. The statement given below, shows the number of jagirs resumed and the amount paid to the Jagirdars as compensation up to the end of the financial year 1966-67¹

| Year | Jagirdars paid compensation (Number) | Amount paid (in Rs) |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| 1957-58 | 267 | 6,11,000 |
| 1958-59 | 205 | 2,31,000 |
| 1959-60 | 26 | 42,000 |
| 1960-61 | 50 | 5,73,000 |
| 1961-62 | 1000 | 4,62,000 |
| 1962-63 | 1000 | 2,73,000 |
| 1963-64 | — | 99,787 |
| 1964-65 | — | 66,375 |
| 1965-66 | — | 49,128 |
| 1966-67 | — | 37,772 |

1. Figures up to 1962-63 are based on Rajasthan *Statistical Abstracts* and from 1963-64 to 1966-67 obtained from the Collector, Churu

Revenue Cases

The following statement shows the disposal of revenue cases by the competent Revenue authorities, in the selected years, during 1958-59 to 1965-66 ¹

(Number)

| Year | Previous balance | Instituted during the year | Total | Disposed off during the year |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1958-59 | 5953 | 8216 | 14169 | 8399 |
| 1960-61 | 1957 | 2518 | 4475 | 2794 |
| 1961-62 | 1681 | 4016 | 5697 | 4289 |
| 1962-63 | 1356 | 4689 | 6045 | 4149 |
| 1965-66 | 1146 | 2774 | 3920 | 2871 |

Landless Agricultural Workers

According to the Census 1961, the total number of Agricultural labourers in the district were 1740 in rural areas and 477 in urban areas ² The Government has taken steps to secure land for them

Bhoodan and Gramdan

Due to the *Bhoodan* Movement sponsored by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, lands have been donated to the *Bhoodan Yagna* Board, which was recognised by the statute passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly known as *Bhoodan Yagna* Act, 1954 The Rajasthan *Bhoodan Yagna* Board began functioning in January 1955

In the *Bhoodan* Movement, people started donating *grams* called as *Gramdan* in which necessitated legislation for the establishment of *Gramdan* villages and for the constitution of *Gramsabhas*, managing the land received and performing other relevant functions Therefore,

1 *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan* 1960 onwards

2 *Census of India*, 1961, Vol XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-A, pp 172-173

the Rajasthan *Gramdan* Act was passed on 18th December, 1959 and implemented from 8th June, 1960. This Act permits the land-holder to donate his rights to the *Gramsabha*.

The yearly progress of the *Bhoodan* Movement, showing the number of donors, land donated and distributed, and the number of families benefited, is given in the Appendix II.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

Past Sources

Besides the land revenue, a number of taxes were levied and *jags* realised by the Government of the former State, of which this area formed a part. There were import duties on *til*, sugar, *rakam* (a fixed military tribute), *rekhi* (money payment in lieu of military service), *rekhwali* (protection fee) and *pagri* or poll tax per male adult. Besides these, twenty-two taxes of peculiar nature were also collected.¹ Some of these were, however, abolished by Maharaja Ganga Singh.²

Present Sources

At present the main sources of revenue, besides the land revenue, are Excise, Sales Tax, Entertainment Tax, Registration, Stamps, and Duty Transport (as State Revenue). The Central Government's revenue sources include Income Tax, Customs and Central Excise.

Registration Department

As per the provisions of the Indian Registration Act of 1908, compulsory registration, in case of certain documents and optional in case of certain others, is required.

The Collector of the district is the *ex-officio* District Registrar under the Act. There is a Sub-Registrar, who registers documents for which the required stamp duties and registration fees are paid. He keeps a record of the registered documents and, on application, issues certified copies from the record.

1 See Appendix III

2 It was a practice with the rulers to abolish some taxes and order levy of others at the time of their accession to the *gaddi*.

The following statement shows the deeds registered and income derived:¹

| Year | No of documents registered | Income (in Rs) |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1960-61 | 3613 | 39168 |
| 1961-62 | 3588 | 36368 |
| 1962-63 | 4433 | 37144 |
| 1963-64 | 3563 | 53000 |
| 1964-65 | 3742 | 48345 |
| 1965-66 | 3816 | 62959 |
| 1966-67 | 3325 | 56866 |

Stamps

The District Treasury Officer, under the provision of the Stamps Act, functions as the custodian of stamps for the purpose of storage as well as distribution and sale to the Sub-Treasuries (six in number) and stamp vendors. Besides two stamp vendors at the District Treasury headquarters, there are thirteen others working at the Sub-treasuries, at Taranagar (2), Ratangarh (2), Rajgarh (2), Sujangarh (3), Sardarshahr (2), and Dungargarh (2). The commission allowed to the vendors at the district headquarters is at the rate of Rs 1.55 per cent judicial stamps and Rs 3.10 per cent non-judicial stamps. At the sub-divisional headquarters Ratangarh and Rajgarh—the commission allowed is Rs. 1.55 per cent judicial stamps and Rs 4.70 per cent non-judicial stamps. At the remaining sub-treasuries the rate of commission is Rs. 1.55 per cent judicial and Rs 6.25 per cent non-judicial stamps.

During the last two years (1965-66 and 1966-67) income earned from sale of non-judicial and judicial stamps is given below :

| (in rupees) | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| Year | Non-judicial | Revenue stamps | Court fees | Copying fees |
| 1965-66 | 23,415 | 10,098 | 53,737 | 9,607 |
| 1966-67 | 2,11,438 | 9,863 | 78,691 | 7,075 |

Registration of Motor Vehicles

As per provisions of the Rajasthan Motor Vehicles Act, the Collector is the Registering Authority for the motor vehicles in the

district The following table gives the year-wise number of registered vehicles and the total amount of revenue collected

| Year | Number of vehicles registered | Total Registration fee (in rupees) |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1962-63 | 19 | 146.00 |
| 1963-64 | 26 | 327 00 |
| 1964-65 | 21 | 469.00 |
| 1965-66 | 64 | 1,381 00 |
| 1966-67 | 36 | 764 00 |

Excise and Taxation

Before the merger of the Bikaner State into Rajasthan, Customs and Excise Department was under the charge of an officer known as Inspector General of Customs and Excise. The Excise Act and Manual, and the Customs Act and Manual and Tariff were introduced in 1911. In the years 1916 and 1922 some changes were made in the the Customs Act, and the Excise Act Manual was also revised in 1922. Under the expert advice of J A Pope, the then Excise Commissioner, Central India (who was consulted by the State authorities, for the purpose) 'Dangerous Drugs Regulation' was incorporated in the Excise Manual. Hempdrugs, originally sold on contract system, were imported by contractors under permits issued by the Excise Department. This system, abolished in 1921-22, was replaced by a system of import of drugs directly by the State. Again the wholesale import of opium was dropped in November, 1931. It was imported by the State and issued to the license-holders for retail sale. These measures improved the state of affairs and the Government earned revenue as follows (in 1945-46)

| | (Rupees) |
|---------|-----------|
| Customs | 15,24,271 |
| Excise | 16,44,759 |

(Figures shown depict the entire State revenue under these heads)

After the formation of Rajasthan, as per the provisions of the Sales Tax Act of 1954, levying of custom duty was replaced by Sales Tax. Accordingly, the former department of Customs and Excise and

Taxation was replaced in 1964 by the two separate departments, (1) Excise and (2) Taxation. At present there are separate offices for Excise and Taxation in the district looked after by an Excise Officer and Commercial Taxation Officer respectively.

This district falls under the jurisdiction of the District Excise Officer, Bikaner. The office at Churu is looked after by the Circle Inspectors, Prosecuting Inspector and the ministerial staff with class four servants.

The revenue from Excise for the period 1956-57 to 1966-67 is shown in the following statement ¹

| Year | Amount in rupees |
|---------|------------------|
| 1956-57 | 3,42,000 |
| 1957-58 | 3,34,000 |
| 1958-59 | 3,62,000 |
| 1959-60 | 4,39,000 |
| 1960-61 | 5,24,000 |
| 1961-62 | 6,01,000 |
| 1962-63 | 7,79,000 |
| 1963-64 | 7,95,000 |
| 1964-65 | 10,98,000 |
| 1965-66 | NR |
| 1966-67 | 17,46,000 |

Commercial Taxes Department

For the collection of sale tax, passenger and goods tax and entertainment tax, etc., there is a Commercial Taxes Officer posted at Churu. He is assisted by Assistant Commercial Taxes Officers (2), by Inspectors (3) and other ministerial staff, in the performance of his duties.

The following statement shows the revenue which accrued in the district from different taxes during 1956-57 to 1966-67 ²

1. *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, for 1958 to 1967

2. *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, for 1958 to 1967.

(Rupees)

| Year | Sales Tax | R P G T | Entertainment Tax |
|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| 1956-57 | 7,17 182 | — | — |
| 1957-58 | 8,13,000 | — | — |
| 1958-59 | 4,39,000 | — | — |
| 1959-60 | 5,00,000 | — | — |
| 1960-61 | 5,53,000 | — | — |
| 1961-62 | 6,90,000 | — | — |
| 1962-63 | 10,10,000 | — | — |
| 1963-64 | 15,04,000 | 1,29,000 | 81,000 |
| 1964-65 | 16,75,000 | 1,33,000 | 62,000 |
| 1965-66 | 19,11,000 | 1,72,000 | 78,000 |
| 1966-67 | 17,72,000 | 1,63,000 | 1,24,000 |

Revenue earned by Central Government

The important taxes of the Central Government are the Income Tax and the Central Excise Tax.

Income Tax

Previously the Bikaner State levied income tax, as per provisions of the State Income Tax Act, 1940. The income earned under this head (for whole of the State) was as follows

| Year | Rupees |
|---------|--------|
| 1944-45 | 330 |
| 1945-46 | 38,131 |
| 1946-47 | 9,638 |

However, as per the Fiscal Integration of 1950, the income tax was recognised as a revenue item of the Central Government of India. Consequently, the Income tax office was reorganised in due course. The district falls under the jurisdiction of the Income Tax Officer (B ward) posted at Bikaner

Central Excise

The Central Excise Officer, headquartered at Jhunjhunun looks after the collection of revenue under the head in this district also

The following statement shows the revenue earned by the department of Central Excise from the district for the years 1960-61 to 1966-67

| Year | Amount (in rupees) |
|---------|--------------------|
| 1960-61 | 2,11,644 |
| 1961-62 | 2,28,150 |
| 1962-63 | 2,62,355 |
| 1963-64 | 2,29,140 |
| 1964-65 | 2,89,141 |
| 1965-66 | 2,06,631 |
| 1966-67 | 2,00,085 |

Besides, the Railway and the Postal Department belong to the Government of India Their earnings go to the Central Government

The Municipal Committees are also empowered to raise revenues by levying octroi, taxes on professions and trade etc

A Panchayat can derive income from vehicle tax, tax on buildings, tax on commercial crops and pilgrim tax.

The following table gives the figures of total income and expenditure of the district for the year 1966-67 under the State and Central heads .²

| | Amount (in rupees) | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | State | Central |
| 1. Receipt of the District | 2,81,26,403 | 10,85,755 |
| 2. Expenditure of the District | 3,76,67,008 | 3,92,219 |

1 Source Central Excise Office, Jhunjhunun, Rajasthan

2 Information received from the Treasury Officer, district Churu

APPENDIX I

**The names of tahsils, Girdawar circles and Patwar
Halkas of the District**

| <i>Tahsils</i> | <i>Girdawar Circles</i> (Inspection Circles) |
|-------------------------|--|
| Churu | (i) Churu, (ii) Dudwa Khara, (iii) Kheenwasar, (iv) Nakrasar. |
| Sardarshahr | (i) Dulrasar, (ii) Sardarshahr, (iii) Phoga, (iv) Bukansar Bara, (v) Jaitasar, (vi) Ghadsisar. |
| Rajgarh | (i) Rajgarh, (ii) Sidhmukh, (iii) Dhigarla, (iv) Dadrewa, (v) Rampura, (vi) Sankhoo. |
| Taranagar | (i) Taranagar, (ii) Dheerwas, (iii) Buchawas, (iv) Santyu |
| Ratangarh | (i) Ratangarh, (ii) Rajaldesar, (iii) Parihara |
| Sujangarh | (i) Sujangarh, (ii) Tendesar, (iii) Jili, (iv) Chhapar, (v) Salasar |
| Dungargarh | (i) Dungargarh, (ii) Bigga, (iii) Sudsar, (iv) Bapeu |
| <i>Girdawar Circles</i> | <i>Patwar Halkas</i> |
| Churu | Churu town, Dhahar, Sahjusr, Boontiya, Khasoli, Thelasar, Ratannagar. |
| Dudwa Khara | Dudwa Khara, Lohsana, Sirsala, Lakhaoo, Ghanghoo, Indrapura. |
| Kheenwasar | Kheenwasar, Jori, Khandwa, Pirthisar, Ghantel, Jhariya. |
| Nakrasar | Jasasar, Nakrasar, Jasrasar, Satara, Sahnali Chhoti, Veenasar. |
| Sardarshahr | Poolasar, Kaklasar, Mahrasar, Derajsar, Ajeetsar, Jaisangsar, Sardarshahr town |
| Dulrasar | Dulrasar, Rooplisar, Bandhnaoo, Meetasar, Beekamsar, Bhojoosar, Bhadasar. |
| Phoga | Phoga Bharthari, Melusar, Dhani-Panchera, Mahri Rajviyan, Ratoosar, Shimla, Billyun. |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Bukansar Bara | Pichkarai Tal, Barjangsar, Bukansar Chhota, Aspalsar Bara Bas, Jaitsisar, Bhojrasar, Halasar. |
| Jaitasar | Jaitasar, Malsar, Tolasar, Sadhasar, Bhojasar Chhota, Malaksar. |
| Ghadsisar | Ghadsisar, Adsisar, Ramsisar, Ragaisar, Keekasar, Rajasar Beekan. |
| Ratangarh | Ratangarh Town, Nosarya, Meloosar, Dadudsar, Gorisar, Gogasar, Golsar, Ratansara. |
| Rajaldesar | Rajaldesar, Bhanooda, Bharpalsar, Binadesar Bidawatan, Lachharsar, Parasaneu, Simsiya, Nuwan. |
| Parihara | Parihara, Loha, Kanwari, Bhookhredi, Loonchh, Tidiyasar, Khudera, Menasar, Bachhrara-Bara |
| Sujangarh | Sujangarh, Balera, Gopalpura, Guleriya, Badabar, Lodsar. |
| Tendesar | Lalgarh, Amarsar, Bamboo, Gewarsar, Kandhal-sar, Sadoo Chhoti, Iyara, Kalyansar. |
| Jili | Jili, Kanuta, Sandwa, Baghsara, Luhara, Urwala, Mundra. |
| Chhapar | Chhapar, Badhsar, Dariba, Dunkar, Jogaliya, Jaitasar, Chadwas, Abasar. |
| Salasar | Salasar, Khuri, Khariya-Kaniram, Shobhasar, Murdakiya, Malsisar, Bheenwsar, Harasar |
| Dungargarh | Dungargarh, Gusainsar, Thukuriyasar, Udrasar, Lodera, Jalabsar, Adsar, Bana, Toliyasar |
| Bigga | Bigga, Dheerdesar, Momasar, Likhmadesar, Riri, Inpalsar |
| Sudsar | Sudsar, Dulhasar, Seruna, Lakhasar, Jodhasar, Dusarna, Punrasar. |
| Bapeu | Bapeu, Barjangsar, Upni, Barela, Soniyasar, Sanwatsar. |
| Rajgarh | Rajgarh A, Rajgarh B, Lambor Bari, Gulpura, Sooratpura, Radha Chhoti, Kalri, Gotha Badi |
| Sidhmukh | Sidhmukh, Bheemsana, Galar, Ramsara Tal, Dhanothi Bari, Bhagela. |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Dhigarla | Dhigarla, Chenpura, Ghanaoo, Birmi Khalsa, Kanjan, Paharsar. |
| Dadrewa | Dadrewa, Mahlana Utrada, Lakhlan, Bhuwari, Sewa, Ratanpura, Dokwa |
| Rampura | Rampura, Naurangpura, Chand Ghothi, Hamirwas Bara, Bewar, Nawan, Kheru Bari. |
| Sankhoo | Sankhoo, Berasar Chhoti, Dhanı Mauji, Beejawas, Neema, Sankhan Tal, Kalana. |
| Taranagar | Taranagar, Alayala, Meekhala, Pandreoo Bain, Nethwa |
| Dheerwas | Dheerwas, Punsisar, Raiya Tunda, Sahwa, Kalwas, Jharsar. |
| Buchawas | Buchawas, Bhaleri, Punras, Kohina, Gajuwas, Redi |
| Santyu | Karanpura, Anandsinghpura, Santyu, Rajpura, Jharsar Chhota, Hadiyal. |

APPENDIX II

Bhoodan Yagya

| Year | Donors | Land donated in Hectares | Land distributed in Hectares | Number of families benefitted |
|------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1956 | 204 | 906 48 | 1332 50 | 80 |
| 1957 | — | — | — | — |
| 1958 | 14 | 47 67 | 631 41 | 150 |
| 1959 | 1 | 1 | 50 | 16 |
| 1960 | 8 | 21 | 83 | 30 |
| 1961 | — | — | — | — |
| 1962 | — | — | — | — |
| 1963 | — | — | — | — |
| 1964 | — | — | — | — |
| 1965 | — | — | — | — |
| 1966 | — | — | — | — |
| 1967 | — | — | — | — |

Source *Rajasthan Statistical Abstracts* for the years 1958–1967.

APPENDIX III

The following is the list of taxes other than those already mentioned, collected in the erstwhile State of Bikaner which also comprised the area now known as Churu district :

- 1 RUPOTA—a tax levied on shops, and on the sale of camels and certain goods in the city.
- 2 AFIM-KA-SAUDA—or license tax on speculation in the prices of opium; it was levied on each speculator and varied from Rs 2 to Rs. 6.
- 3 MENH-KA-SAUDA—a license tax on speculation on rainfall.
- 4 TANKRI GHI—raw sugar, *Zarda tamaku* (a chewing tobacco) were taxes on the weighing of these articles
- 5 KAPARA-KI-DALLALI—tax on cloth merchants in the shape of brokerage.
- 6 SONA-RUPA-KI-CHADAMI—tax on the sale of gold and silver.
- 7 KANDOI-KA-LAGA—license tax on making of sweetmeats for festivals.
- 8 KIRAUT-LAGON-KI-BACH—license tax on craftsmen, such as goldsmiths, blacksmiths, tailors, shoe-makers etc It was levied yearly in a lump sum. The respective *chaudharis* made the individual assessment and collected the amount.
9. KHOLA—or adoption fee was paid by the person adopting a son. It varied according to his means, subject to a limit of Rs. 1,000.
10. CHAUTH ZAMIN—was distinguished under two heads, viz., the sale (within the city) of land and buildings belonging to the Darbar and the one of private individuals In the former, the whole of the proceeds were credited to the Darbar while in latter, only one-fourth was taken by the State
11. GAIMAL—or proceeds of unclaimed or heirless property situated in Bikaner It was abolished by Maharaja Ganga Singh in the year 1924.
- 12 DHUAN—a house tax for each family.
13. KURAR JHUNKERA—tax on fodder for the cattle owned by each family.
- 14 NEOTA BACH—tax on presents on occasions of marriage, at Rs 7 and 7 *takas* (or 14 pice). It was abolished by Maharaja Sadul Singh in 1943.

15. TALIBAB—cess levied from non-agriculturist classes, at Rs. 2 on each family and Rs. 4 per camel
16. SINGHOTI—tax on sheep and goats, at the rate of Re 1 for every 14 heads.
17. CHAUDRBAB—at Rs 11 from each village
18. KOT AND KHAI BACH—tax occasionally levied for the repairs of the Bikaner fort.
19. PESHKASH—succession fee on *pattas*, which was generally equal to the yearly *rakam* (amount) payable by the *patta*-holders, but sometimes very much more.
20. NAZRANA—levied on occasion of change of *pattas*, and often arbitrarily when the ruler wanted money.
21. RAJ TILAK—a present made to the ruler on occasion of accession to the *gadi*. It consisted of horses, elephants, gold *mohurs*, etc
22. SALSELARI—tax levied from *Dheds* (a very low caste) at 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per family.

(The above list has been prepared on the basis of the Appendix No. II given in Powlett's *Gazetteer of Bikaner*, 1933, pp 145-146)

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Incidence of crime

The incidence of crimes in the district can be gauged from the offences registered by the police for the period 1957 to 1966 as given below :

| Year | (number) | | | | | | | | Total |
|------|----------|---------|--------|------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| | Dacoity | Robbery | Murder | Riot | Burg- lary | Cattle theft | Other theft | Miscella- neous | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1957 | — | 13 | 10 | 26 | 79 | 49 | 49 | 245 | 471 |
| 1958 | 3 | 35 | 56 | 17 | 231 | 106 | 121 | 613 | 1172 |
| 1959 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 17 | 101 | 52 | 52 | 255 | 505 |
| 1960 | — | 9 | 9 | 21 | 112 | 69 | 81 | 266 | 567 |
| 1961 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 39 | 115 | 54 | 70 | 258 | 559 |
| 1962 | 1 | 14 | 15 | 33 | 104 | 63 | 66 | 259 | 555 |
| 1963 | — | 18 | 9 | 34 | 111 | 45 | 68 | 303 | 588 |
| 1964 | 4 | 16 | 11 | 35 | 130 | 59 | 91 | 371 | 717 |
| 1965 | 4 | 15 | 9 | 34 | 121 | 41 | 67 | 351 | 642 |
| 1966 | 1 | 18 | 7 | 33 | 111 | 77 | 95 | 317 | 659 |

It would be observed from the above table that offences against property, like house breaking and theft are common in the district. The overall position is steady with slight variations for which no reasons can be assigned.

1. See Table A-1, p. 2, Report 1966 on crime.

The attempts made for the recovery of the stolen property for the period 1957-1966 were as tabulated below¹ :

(Rupees)

| Year | Property stolen | Property recovered | Percentage of recovery |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1957 | 85,671 | 44,065 | 51.41 |
| 1958 | 92,368 | 37,517 | 40.6 |
| 1959 | 97,191 | 53,949 | 55.5 |
| 1960 | 1,57,287 | 35,640 | 22.7 |
| 1961 | 1,19,663 | 56,693 | 47.4 |
| 1962 | 2,02,803 | 1,36,068 | 67.1 |
| 1963 | 1,25,838 | 48,036 | 38.2 |
| 1964 | 2,85,415 | 1,78,994 | 62.7 |
| 1965 | 1,87,752 | 73,382 | 39.1 |
| 1966 | 2,27,151 | 1,19,192 | 52.5 |

POLICE

Historical Background

Police duties were, till recently, performed solely by the local militia and the *Jagir* militia in their respective jurisdictions in the district. With a view to securing the efficient detection and regular registration of crimes, a separate department known as *Girai* was established in 1885 and placed under a Superintendent. It was primarily an arrangement to safeguard the triple border of Sikar, Shekhawati and Bikaner that is, the present districts of Sikar, Jhunjhunun and Churu, and accordingly eight *thanas* and thirteen *chowkis* between Nima on the south to Khurdgot on the north were established in April 1880. The police administration and organisation was regularized on April 1, 1889 by the promulgation of Bikaner Police Code, which was later replaced by the Bikaner Police Act in 1922. Since then police stations were reorganised and the status of the investigation officers was raised from time to time by the Bikaner State but no information about frequent changes made within the limits of this district are available, because, for purpose of police administration, the present district of Churu had no existence and was partly under the jurisdictions of police districts of Rajgarh and Sujargarh till this district came into existence in 1948.

1 *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1958 onwards*

Police set-up on the eve of the Merger

For the purpose of police administration this district was covered by two circles, 15 police stations and 15 police out-posts, the details of which are as follows:

| Circle | Police Station | Police out-posts |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Ratangarh | 1. Ratangarh | 1. Ratangarh |
| | | 2. Rajaldesar |
| | | 3. Sulkharia |
| | | 4. Molisar |
| | 2. Sardarshahr | 5. Sardarshahr |
| | 3. Khejran | |
| | 4. Dungargarh | 6. Dungargarh |
| | | 7. Momasar |
| | | 8. Udrasar |
| | 5. Sujangarh | 9. Sujangarh |
| 2. Rajgarh | | 10. Chhapar |
| | 6. Bhimsar | |
| | 7. Jili | |
| | 8. Bapeu | |
| | 1. Rajgarh | 1. Rajgarh |
| | | 2. Dadrewa |
| | | 3. Sidhmukh |
| | 2. Hamirwas | |
| | 3. Taranagar | 4. Sahwa |
| | 4. Churu | 5. Churu |
| | 5. Ghanghu | |
| | 6. Sankhu | |
| | 7. Ratannagar | |

After Merger

In 1952 the strength of the police force in the district comprised one Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, four Inspectors, 26 Sub-Inspectors, 85 Head Constables and 607 Constables. The police strength was augmented in 1956 by adding one Head Constable and 64 Constables. Subsequently, the existing strength of the police department was re-organised in the year 1962-63. Accordingly, the district, for the purpose of police administration, was divided into three circles, 12 police stations and 19 out-posts as against

the existing two circles, 15 police stations and 15 out-posts. Police stations at Ghanghu, Bapeu, Ratannagar and Sankhu and out-posts at Udrasar and Dudwakhara were abolished and police stations at Dudwakhara and out-posts at Bapeu, Bidasar, Soodsar, Sankhu and Ratannagar were created.

Present Position

The police force consisted in 1966 of one Superintendent, 2 Deputy Superintendents, 4 Inspectors, 25 Sub-Inspectors, 6 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 86 Head Constables and 521 Constables. The force is of two types, namely, armed police and civil police having the following strength in the year 1966

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Armed Police | Inspector | 1 |
| | Sub-Inspector | 1 |
| | Head Constables | 28 |
| | Constables | 130 |
| Civil Police | Inspectors | 3 |
| | Sub-Inspectors | 24 |
| | Asstt. Sub-Inspectors | 6 |
| | Head Constables | 58 |
| | Constables | 391 |

For the purpose of police administration, the district has been divided into three circles, 12 police stations and 19 out-posts. Police circles of Churu and Ratangarh are in the charge of a Deputy Superintendent. Police and Circle Rajgarh is in the charge of an Inspector. Each Police Station is in the charge of a Sub-Inspector, and each Out-Post in the charge of a Head Constable. The list of Police Stations and Out Posts is given in Appendix I.

Traffic Police

No traffic police has been provided for the district. However, some trained constables have been posted in all important towns of the district.

Mounted Police

There is no mounted police in the district but 42 constables are paid an allowance of Rs 30/- per month for maintaining their personal camels in police stations and out-posts. The mounted Constables normally carry out process service and patrolling in their respective areas.

Railway Police

Prior to the formation of Rajasthan, the Bikaner Railway Police was under the control of the Inspector General of Police. It was under the charge of an Inspector who was responsible for the maintenance of law and order over 14.113 km (883.05 miles) railway track in the territory of the State of Bikaner. After the formation of Rajasthan, the Bikaner Railway was merged in the Northern Railway and the railway police administration was placed under the Superintendent of Railway Police, Rajasthan Circle with headquarters at Ajmer. The administration of the Railway Police of Rajasthan was reorganised in 1954. The sanctioned strength of the Railway Police in the district in the year 1967 was as follows :

| District Churu | Sanctioned Strength | | | Total |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-------|
| | Sub-Inspectors | Head-Constables | Constables | |
| Police Station, Ratangarh | 1 | 2 | 22 | 25 |
| Police Out-post, Churu | - | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Police Out-post, Sadulpur | - | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| Total | 1 | 5 | 37 | 43 |

The following table gives the number of crimes committed on the Railway from 1951 to 1966.

| Year | Thefts in running trains | Thefts at stations | Thefts at goods yards | Miscellaneous | Crimes | Total |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| 1951 | 11 | - | — | 24 | 14 | 49 |
| 1952 | 6 | - | — | 13 | 10 | 29 |
| 1953 | 6 | 3 | — | 13 | 7 | 29 |
| 1954 | 5 | 2 | — | 8 | 6 | 21 |
| 1955 | 9 | 2 | — | 10 | 10 | 31 |
| 1956 | 12 | - | — | 16 | 6 | 34 |
| 1957 | 18 | 1 | — | 10 | 6 | 35 |
| 1958 | 16 | - | — | 14 | 6 | 36 |
| 1959 | 21 | 1 | — | 18 | 7 | 47 |
| 1960 | 14 | - | — | 21 | 4 | 39 |
| 1961 | 15 | 4 | — | 8 | 6 | 33 |
| 1962 | 24 | - | — | 8 | 9 | 41 |
| 1963 | 17 | - | — | 21 | 4 | 42 |
| 1964 | 16 | - | — | 29 | 6 | 51 |
| 1965 | 29 | - | — | 25 | 1 | 55 |
| 1966 | 14 | 5 | — | 26 | 7 | 52 |

It appears from the above table that the district is free from thefts at goods yards, thefts at stations are negligible, while thefts in running trains are common.

Anti-Corruption Department

The anti-corruption branch at Bikaner was established in 1957 to detect cases of corruption. Its jurisdiction covered the districts of Bikaner, Churu and Nagore. Since then till the end of June 1967, 363 complaints pertaining to Churu district were registered and 351 enquiries were completed. During this period, 21 Government servants were either punished departmentally or convicted by the courts on charges of corruption or misconduct. Twenty two departmental enquiries against Government servants were pending by the end of June 1967 with the authorities concerned while one case was pending trial in the court.

Civil Defence

The civil defence measures were introduced for the first time in October 1962. The training courses for civil defence were arranged at four centres, and 2,172 men and 14 women were trained as under.

| S No | Place | Year | Total No of persons trained | |
|-------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | | | Men | Women |
| 1. | Churu | 1962-63 | 514 | — |
| 2 | Ratangarh | 1964 | 39 | — |
| 3 | Sujangarh | 1965 | 1,102 | — |
| 4. | Sardarshahr | 1966 | 517 | 14 |
| Total | | | 2172 | 14 |

The services of these personnel were utilised during the national emergencies of 1962 and 1965.

Home Guards

Home guards training was organised at Churu in 1963, and 946 persons were trained by the end of 1965-66, 325 in 1963-64, 444 in 1964-65 and 177 in 1965-66.

JAIL ADMINISTRATION

In former days no regular jails existed and, therefore, prisoners remained entirely at the mercy of the *Havildars* in the *parganas* or

the *Thakurs* in the *Jagir* areas. Prisoners were kept in the *havalats* or lock-ups or *kotwali* without care, adequate food and sanitation. These *havalats* or lock-ups were maintained at the headquarters of each *tahsildar* and *naib-tahsildar*. But in 1885, two prisons, one at Reni (now known as Taranagar) and the other at Sujangarh, accommodating 86 and 66 inmates, respectively, were established. The local *nazims* were responsible for the management of the jails and proper care of prisoners.

After the formation of Rajasthan, three sub-jails, one each at Churu, Rajgarh (now known as Sadulpur) and Ratangarh with capacity to accommodate 95 inmates were established and the existing district jails were abolished. Under trial civil prisoners and convicts sentenced upto one month's imprisonment are accommodated in the sub-jails. Convicts whose sentences are longer than one month are sent to the nearest central or district jail, as the case may be. The sub-jails are managed by the Assistant Jailors. The average daily population during the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 was as under:

| Name of sub-Jail | Place | 1961-62 | 1962-63 | 1963-64 | 1964-65 | 1965-66 |
|------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 Sub-Jail | Churu | 21 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 32 |
| 2. Sub-Jail | Sadulpur | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 8 |
| 3 Sub-Jail | Ratangarh | 21 | 22 | 10 | 20 | 12 |

The expenditure on these sub-jails during the years 1963-64 to 1965-66 was as follows:

| Name of the Sub-Jail | (Rs) | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1963-64 | 1964-65 | 1965-66 |
| 1. Churu | 23,101 | 22,885 | 32,172 |
| 2. Sadulpur | 11,736 | 16,113 | 15,293 |
| 3 Ratangarh | 13,808 | 14,867 | 12,109 |

Other details about these sub-jails are as follows:

1. Sub-jail, Churu is a first class sub-jail. It has capacity to accommodate 50 prisoners. The staff comprises an Assistant Jailor, two Head Warders and eight Warders.

2 Sub-jail, Sadulpur is categorised as second class sub-jail. It can accommodate 30 inmates. The staff consists of an Assistant Jailor, one Head Warder and seven Warders.

3 Sub-Jail, Ratangarh is classified as third class sub-jail. It has capacity to accommodate 15 inmates. The staff comprises of an Assistant Jailor, one Head Warder and six Warders.

Prison Discipline

Discipline is maintained in accordance with the jail regulations. Political detenus are governed by the rules and orders of the Government according to their classification done by the Court.

Welfare of Prisoners

The part time services of a doctor from State hospitals at each sub-jails are provided for looking after the health of the prisoners. The rules regarding interviews and correspondence for the inmates have been liberalised. Visits of relatives are allowed once in a month. Prisoners can purchase books on socio-moral topics and receive books from friends and relatives.

JUDICIARY

Historical Background

Prior to 1885, there was no organised system of judicial administration in the district. Justice was administered by *Havildars* and *Jagirdars* who exercised their powers *imperium in imperio*.

In 1884-85 an attempt was made for the first time to establish *Nizamat* Courts in the district. *Nizamat* Courts at Reni (now called Taranagar) and Sujangarh were established at the *Nizamat* headquarters (now included in the district). Appeals against their decisions were allowed to the Appeal Court at Bikaner and appeal against its decisions could be made to the *Ijlas Khas* or the court of the Maharaja, which was replaced by the Regency Council in 1887. The Regency Council established a regular system of judicial administration by creating the Courts of *Nazims*, *Tahsildars* and *Naib-Tahsildars* who were vested with powers to decide both civil and criminal cases. Besides, the Court of Honorary Magistrate was established at Churu, with powers to decide petty civil suits relating to immovable property.

In 1920 the Courts of District Judges at Rajgarh and Sujangarh (district headquarters of the erstwhile State of Bikaner) and the Courts

of Munsifs at Ratangarh and Churu in this district were established. In 1930, the Civil Courts Act envisaged the reorganisation of the Courts of the District Judges and Munsifs. It empowered the Courts of Munsifs to decide suits the value of which did not exceed Rs 1,000/-. The District Judges were empowered to take cognizance of all suits upto the value of Rs 10,000/- However, the Civil Courts could not try suits relating to the title, the rule of descent, succession and adoption of *Pattedars* and their disputes with the State. In 1940, the judicial set-up was reorganised. Consequently the Courts of District Judges at Sujangarh and Rajgarh were abolished and replaced by Courts of Munsifs, and the Court of Munsif at Ratangarh was replaced by that of a district judge who was invested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge to try offences not punishable with death or imprisonment for life, and to hear appeals against sentences of imprisonment not exceeding three months or fines not exceeding Rs 100/- passed by a First Class Magistrate and all sentences passed by a Second Class Magistrate. All the Munsifs were vested with the powers of the First Class Magistrate. *Tahsildars* in this district (although they were relieved of all criminal case work in other parts of the erstwhile State of Bikaner) were empowered to try criminal cases both cognizable and non-cognizable and the *tahsildars* at Dungargarh and Taranagar were allowed to continue to try civil suits upto the value of Rs. 200/-

Thus, besides the High Court, exercising original, appellate and revisional jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases for the whole of the former State of Bikaner, the district administration of justice was carried on by the Courts of District Judge Ratangarh, and Munsifs at Sujangarh, Rajgarh and Churu. The *Nazims* and *Tahsildars*, however, continued to exercise judicial powers.

After the formation of the State of Rajasthan, uniform pattern of judicial administration was adopted. The re-organised set-up of the administration of justice in the district was headed by the District and Sessions Judge with headquarters at Bikaner. On the criminal side, the subordinate courts included that of an Assistant Sessions Court at Ratangarh, Courts of District Magistrate, Churu, Assistant Collectors and Sub-Divisional Magistrates at Rajgarh and Ratangarh and City Magistrate, Churu. *Tahsildars* and *Naib-Tahsildars* were invested with the powers of Second Class and Third Class Magistrates respectively. On the civil side, the subordinate courts included that of a Civil Judge, Churu and Munsifs at Ratangarh, Rajgarh and Churu.

As no uniform system of Civil and Criminal laws existed in the United State of Rajasthan, the various laws enacted by the Government of India were adopted for the guidance of all these courts. Thus the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Indian Evidence Act, Civil Procedure Code, Stamps and Courts Fees Act and Limitation Act were made applicable. Consequent upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Ranawat Committee to separate the judiciary from the executive, the district administration of justice was further affected in 1962, when the executive officers were divested of their powers to try cases under the Indian Penal Code and Munsifs were invested with the powers of the First Class Magistrate.

Present Position

The Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Churu is the highest Civil and Criminal Court in the district and the Nyaya Panchayats form the lowest rung of the ladder of judicial administration. The civil and criminal jurisdiction of the various courts is given below

| S No | Name of the Court | Place of sitting | Territorial Jurisdiction |
|------|---|------------------|---|
| 1 | Additional District and Sessions Judge, Churu | Churu | Churu district |
| 2 | Civil Judge and Magistrate 1st Class, Churu | Churu | Churu, Sardarshahr, Taranagar and Rajgarh tahsils |
| 3. | Civil Judge and 1st Class Magistrate, Ratangarh | Ratangarh | Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Dungargarh tahsils |
| 4 | Munsif Magistrate 1st Class, Rajgarh | Rajgarh | Rajgarh and Taranagar Tahsils |
| 5 | Nyaya Panchayats | — | Details given in the Chapter on 'Local Self Government' |

Besides these courts the Collector and the Sub-Divisional Officers at Churu, Rajgarh and Ratangarh are ex-officio District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates. They administer the administrative provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and also try, in addition to revenue matters, offences committed under various Acts excluding the Indian Penal Code.

The following table shows the number of criminal and civil cases instituted and disposed off in 1965 by various courts :

| Name of the Court | Cases pending | Cases instituted | Total | Cases disposed off | Balance |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Criminal | | | | | |
| 1 Sessions Judge, Churu. | | | | | |
| (i) Original | 28 | 29 | 57 | 38 | 19 |
| (ii) Appeals | 30 | 109 | 139 | 121 | 18 |
| (iii) Revision | 11 | 40 | 51 | 30 | 21 |
| 2 Civil Judge and Magistrate, Ratangarh. | 84 | 357 | 441 | 280 | 161 |
| Civil | | | | | |
| 1 Civil and Additional Sessions Judge, Churu | | | | | |
| (i) Original | 341 | 287 | 628 | 244 | 384 |
| (ii) Appeals | - | - | - | - | - |
| (iii) Revision Panchayats | 13 | 16 | 29 | 11 | 18 |
| (iv) Execution | 193 | 112 | 305 | 149 | 156 |
| (v) Small Cause Court | | | | | |
| (a) Suits | 34 | 62 | 96 | 65 | 31 |
| (b) Execution | 36 | 37 | 73 | 48 | 25 |
| (vi) Election Petition | 1 | 40 | 41 | 25 | 16 |
| (vii) Insolvency | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | 3 |
| (viii) Probate Certificate | 13 | 17 | 30 | 16 | 14 |
| (ix) Miscellaneous | 39 | 26 | 65 | 30 | 35 |
| 2 Civil Judge, Ratangarh. | | | | | |
| (i) Original | 161 | 294 | 455 | 270 | 185 |
| (ii) Execution | 144 | 249 | 393 | 245 | 148 |
| (iii) Small Cause | | | | | |
| (a) Suits | 23 | 101 | 124 | 107 | 17 |
| (b) Execution | 32 | 62 | 94 | 74 | 20 |
| (iv) Revision | 4 | 11 | 15 | 9 | 6 |
| (v) Petition | 2 | 32 | 34 | 16 | 18 |
| (vi) Miscellaneous | 18 | 60 | 78 | 40 | 38 |

Legal Profession

Mukhtars Maqbula (authorised agents) were the only legal practitioners in the district till the enactment of Bikaner Legal Practitioners Act, 1925. Since then the enrolment of the legal practitioners was restricted to law-graduates and those who had qualified themselves as *Vakils*, in the departmental examination conducted by the State. The Act debarred the unqualified practitioners from practising in law courts. The number of lawyers in the district during the period of the erstwhile State of Bikaner is not known. The number of persons engaged in legal profession in the district according to the Census 1951, was 54 which included 45 pleaders, nine clerks of lawyers and petition writers. According to the 1961 Census the number of legal practitioners and advisers was 51 and that of legal technicians 41.

Bar Association

There are three bar associations in the district the details of which are as follows:

BAR ASSOCIATION, RAJGARH—This was established in 1930. It has its own President and Secretary who are elected by the members. The members are not required to subscribe for membership, but a few pay at the rate of one rupee on each *Vakalatnama* they file to meet the expenses of this association. The number of members is seven only.

BAR ASSOCIATION, CHURU—This was established in 1928 and was converted into District Bar Association, simultaneously with the establishment of District Headquarters at Churu in 1948. Formerly this Association had a President, a Vice-president and a Secretary but the post of Vice-president was abolished. The term of the office bearers is one year. In 1967 the number of members was 25. The members are required to subscribe Rs 5/- per month. In 1960 a building for the Bar Association was constructed. The Association maintains its own library.

BAR ASSOCIATION, RATANGARH—This was founded in 1930. The Association has a President and a Secretary, who are annually elected by the members. In 1967 its membership was 20. The Association maintains a small library.

APPENDIX I

List of Police Stations and Out-posts (circle-wise) in 1967 of
Churu district

| Name of the Circle | Name of Police Station | Name of Out-post |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Churu | 1. Churu | 1. Churu |
| | | 2. Ratangarh |
| | 2. Sardarshahr | 3. Sardarshahr |
| | 3. Dudwakhara | |
| 2 Ratangarh | 4. Bhanipura | |
| | 5. Ratangarh | 4 Ratangarh |
| | | 5. Rajaldesar |
| | | 6. Sulkhaniya |
| | | 7. Molisar |
| | 6. Sujangarh | 8. Sujangarh |
| | | 9. Chhapar |
| | | 10. Bidasar |
| | 7. Bhinsar | 11. Dungargarh |
| | | 12. Sudsar |
| 3 Rajgarh | 8 Sandwa | 13. Momasar |
| | 9 Dungargarh | 14 Bapeu |
| | 10 Rajgarh | 15. Rajgarh |
| | | 16. Dadrewa |
| | | 17. Sidhmukh |
| | 11. Taranagar | 18 Sahwa |
| | 12 Hamirwas | 19. Sankhu |

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The administrative set up of departments other than those hitherto described are as follows :

STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Agriculture Department

The Agriculture department in the district is controlled by the District Agriculture Officer, with headquarters at Churu, whose range also extends to Bikaner district. The office was established in its present form in the year 1957 though since then changes in the strength of the staff have taken place from time to time. The District Agriculture Officer is assisted by one Agriculture Assistant, one Plant Protection Supervisor, three Plant Protection Fieldmen and one Agriculture Fieldman, besides the usual necessary staff.

The District Agriculture Officer is responsible for all the activities, relating to agriculture, carried on in the district. His functions include drawing up of agriculture production programme for the area, carrying out schemes and programmes of the department, conducting and supervising agriculture demonstrations and keeping field staff posted in the Panchayat Samitis of his jurisdiction in touch with the latest technical know-how of agriculture and its application and also to propagate amongst the agriculturists, the adoption of improved agricultural practices in augmenting the yield. He is responsible for the implementation of schemes, relating to oil-seeds, sugarcane, cotton, soil conservation and plant protection. During 1965-66, 16 new wells were dug, 15 pumping sets were installed, 2,601 hectares (6,427 acres) of barren land were reclaimed and 11.55 tonnes (11.37 tons) of chemical fertilisers and 2,311 quintals (5,657 maunds) of improved seeds were distributed.

Animal Husbandry Department

The Animal Husbandry Department is controlled by the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Churu, whose jurisdiction extends over Bikaner district also. Below him are the Veterinary Surgeons who are in charge of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries functioning in the district. Important duties of the Animal Husbandry Officer are

to supervise and control veterinary hospitals and dispensaries to provide guidance to the inhabitants for the improvement of breed and to arrange treatment of animals, prevention of contagious diseases of live-stock and to educate the people regarding scientific management of livestock. The office as organised at present came into existence during 1967.

After the introduction of the scheme of Democratic Decentralisation, the implementation of schemes like subsidy for breeding of calves, subsidy for purchase and distribution of poultry, development of breeding bulls, treatment and control of contagious and infectious diseases of livestock etc, was transferred to Panchayat Samitis. The department continued to execute schemes like control and supervision of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, artificial insemination centres, castration of scrub cattle and *gaushala* development etc During the year 1965-66, castration of 15,927 animals was performed, 5,612 animals were inoculated and 19,908 were treated

Besides the District Animal Husbandry Officer, the staff in the Veterinary Department in the district consists of one Livestock Inspector, three clerks and two class iv servants.

Co-operative Department

The activities of the Co-operative Department at the district level are controlled by the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Churu who is responsible to the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bikaner. He is assisted in his work by one Technical Assistant, one Functional Inspector, 7 Inspectors (Executive), two Land Records Inspectors, 10 Audit Inspectors and 16 Assistant Inspectors besides the usual necessary staff His functions include registration of new societies supervision over the working societies, advancing of loans to societies through Co-operative Bank, inspection of Primary Marketing Co-operative Societies, realisation of dues from the Co-operative Societies under the Rajasthan Public Demand Recovery Act, 1952 and controlling all the executive staff under him The functional Inspectors are responsible for inspection of Primary Marketing Societies, while Inspectors (Executive) supervise and inspect the societies falling in their jurisdiction Inspectors (Audit) are required to audit the accounts of the societies During the Third Five Year Plan period, 79 Gram Seva Sahkari Samitis, one Co-operative Consumer's Store and Industrial (Leather) Co-operative Society were organised, in addition to the other executive work.

Economics and Statistics Department

There is no separate office of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the district but one Statistical Inspector is posted in the district, who is required to collect, compile and transmit all statistical data relating to various aspects of the economy of the district. He works under the supervision and guidance of the District Statistician, Bikaner.

Employment Exchange

The work of employment exchange in this district is supervised by the Employment Officer, Bikaner. Primary function of this office is to assist employment seekers in obtaining jobs, and employers in finding suitable hands for suitable jobs. Besides, vocational guidance is also provided by the Office. At the end of March, 1966 the total number of applicants on the Live Register was 552 including 41 women candidates. In 1965-66 as many as 747 vacancies were notified, of which 435 were filled up.

Forest Department

The forest areas of Churu district, which are only grass reserves, are under the control of Forest Range Officer headquartered at Churu. Below him is a Forester with his headquarters at Churu for looking after the work of the department. Prior to the transfer of these areas to the Forest Department, some of the area was 'Gaushala Preserves', and some was, 'Grass Land Improvement areas'. Besides, a shooting reserve of the ruler of Bikaner at village Tal Chhappar was also transferred to the Forest Department which has now been declared a game sanctuary for black buck locally called *Kala hira* and a separate Assistant Forester has been posted to supervise it. The forest areas are scattered in Churu, Ratangarh and Sujangarh tahsils where Forest Guards have been posted to look after the work in these areas.

Office of the Superintendent, Industrial Training Institute, Ratangarh

Under the control of the Industries Department and administered by a Superintendent, the Institute with an intake capacity of 64, was started in 1963 with a view to imparting free training in various engineering trades. The intake capacity was raised to 256 in 1966-67. The number of successful candidates trained by the institute was 36 in 1963-64, 39 in 1964-65 and 51 in 1965-66.

The staff of the Institute consists of one Superintendent, 12 Crafts Instructors and one Drawing Instructor besides other necessary subordinate and ministerial staff. A Medical Officer and a Hostel Superintendent are also attached to the Institute as part-time workers.

Office of the Project Officer, Rural Industries Project, Churu

Prior to 1963, a District Industries Office was functioning in the district to execute the programme of development of industries but in July 1963, this office was merged with the District Industries Office of Bikaner. Accordingly, the Industries Officer, Bikaner was made responsible for looking after the work of Churu district also. In 1965, a Rural Industries Project was started in Churu with a view to giving impetus to the development of small scale industries in the rural areas. Under this project, training in *ban* (rope making) and *mudda* making (making of reed chair), weaving, dyeing, designing and finishing of woollen textiles, carpentry, etc. is imparted, and demonstrations are organised in pottery making. Besides, Industrial Exhibitions are also organised. A sub-depot of the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation has been functioning since October, 1965 in the district. Other important training centres which are functioning under Rural Industrialisation Projects are a Woollen Dyeing, Designing and Finishing Centre at Churu, Textile Weaving Centre at Berasar, Pottery Centre at Sahawa and *Mudda* and *Ban* Making Centre at Rajgarh, which have given impetus to the growth of industrial units. These consist of cement *jalis*, soap, *bidi*, electronics, iron and steel fabrication, oil and *dal*, salt, wood, aluminium utensils, biscuits and confectionaries, *khandisari*, match boxes, textiles, hosiery and felt, *dari* and *niwar*, gum tape, electric casing, plastic goods, iron buckets, thread reeling, bricks and lime, silver utensils and rolled-gold ornaments, shoe tags and screws, stone grit, P V C wire, tyre retreading, ice candy and cold storage, nickle polishing, spray painting, motor parts, *ayurvedic* medicines, wool carding, light chemicals, A C pipes etc., their total number being 168. The staff of the project in 1967-68 was one Project Officer, one Planning-cum-Survey Officer, three Technical Officers, one each for Wool, Leather and Mechanical, two Economic Investigators, one Power Loom Inspector, five Extension Officers, one Finishing Master for Woollen Dyeing and Designing, one Technical Manager for Textile Weaving Centre, one Pottery Instructor for Pottery Centre and one *Mudda* and *Ban* Instructor for the Centre besides other auxiliary staff.

The Project Officer is also ex-officio Assistant Collector of Weights and Measures and is responsible for ensuring that the provisions of Weights and Measures Act, 1958 and Rules made thereunder are implemented in his jurisdiction. He is authorised to initiate legal action against those who flout the provisions of the Act. In this work he is assisted by three Inspectors, two Assistant Inspectors, besides other staff.

Public Health Engineering Department

The Churu district forms part of the Churu Division of the Public Health Engineering Department whose range extends also over Ganganagar District. It is headed by an Executive Engineer, who is responsible to the Superintending Engineer, Health, Jaipur. For administrative convenience, the division is divided into four Sub-Divisions which are located at Sujangarh, Churu, Hanumangarh and Ganganagar. Each Sub-Division is looked after by an Overseer who is responsible for the execution and maintenance of water supply schemes in urban as well as rural areas. By the end of the Third Plan period, water supply schemes of Bigga, Parihara and Memasar were completed. Work on Dariba, Buchawas, Simla and Pularsar is in progress. Water supply schemes are being maintained by the department at Churu, Rajgarh, Taranagar and Sardarshahr besides, work for water supply scheme in the year 1966-67 were in progress at Sujangarh and Ratangarh.

Public Relations Department

At the district level, the department is controlled by the Public Relations Officer with headquarters at Churu. His important functions are to gather information on development activities and focus public attention on them by issuing feature articles to the Press as well as to the Department journals, to provide guidance to the Information Centres in the blocks in their functioning, to supervise District Information Offices which provide useful information about the district to those who seek, to propagate Five Year Plans and Government policies through various media of publicity like mobile exhibitions, distribution of literature, audio-visual means, showing of pictures and news reels etc. He also acts as a Press Liaison Officer of the Government and makes arrangements for press conferences and for interviews to the journalists and State guests. A mobile van along with generator, projector and amplifier has also been provided by the Government to this Office. Besides the Public Relations Officer, an operator, a clerk, a driver and two peons are on the staff of the Office.

Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads)

An Office of the Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads, was set up in February, 1966 Prior to this, the work relating to this office was being looked after by the Executive Engineer (Construction Division) Bikaner At present, the work of this division is divided into three sub-divisions viz Churu, Sujangarh and Sardarshahr, each of which is headed by an Assistant Engineer who is also known as Sub-Divisional Officer The Assistant Engineers are directly responsible to the Executive Engineer for all technical as well as administrative matters. Below them are 3 Junior Engineers, 9 Overseers, two Computers, one Senior and one Junior Draughtsman, two Tracers, one Foreman, one Divisional Accountant besides the other complement of staff.

The Executive Engineer, who is under the control of the Superintending Engineer, P W D (B & R), Bikaner, is primarily responsible for construction of roads and buildings, maintenance of existing roads and Government buildings, assessment of fair rent of buildings taken on rent by Government Departments.

Rajasthan State Electricity Board

Keeping in view the heavy work-load, two divisions of Rajasthan State Electricity Board have been established in the district with headquarters at Churu and Ratangarh Each of the division is headed by an Executive Engineer Formerly there was only one division known as Construction Division with headquarters at Sadulpur (Rajgarh). Its headquarters were transferred to Churu in 1958 In 1961, the necessity of creating one more division was felt and accordingly the construction works were given to a newly created Division at Ratangarh while the Churu Division was converted into a regular o & M. Division. At present the Churu Division is divided into three sub-divisions viz, (1) o & M. Sub-Division, Churu (2) Grid Sub-Station, Sub-Division, Sadulpur and (3) o. & M Sub-Division, Sadulpur Each of the sub-division is controlled by an Assistant Engineer who is responsible to the Executive Engineer of his division Below the Assistant Engineers are 10 Junior Engineers, two foremen, 22 Lines men, 41 Helpers of Grade I and Grade II besides ministerial staff.

The primary function of this Office is to transmit and distribute hydro-electric power in Sadulpur and Churu sub-divisions and to keep up the supply.

Ratangarh division, on the other hand, controls the construction work of the area.

Sheep and Wool Department

The Sheep and Wool Department, in the district is headed by the District Sheep and Wool Officer, Churu. The primary functions of this Office are, to improve the stock to increase the wool production, to check diseases and reduce percentage of mortality and to provide technical guidance to the private sheep breeders for adopting modern methods of sheep husbandry.

With a view to bringing uniformity in the flock, to reduce rate of mortality and to increase the wool production, 9 Sheep and Wool Extension-cum-Shearing Centres were established in the district at Churu, Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Chhapar, Rajgarh (Sadulpur), Sardarshahr, Dungargarh, Rajaldesar and Taranagar. At these Centres good stud rams were maintained for distribution to the registered flock masters free of cost for service purposes. During the Third Five Year Plan a new scheme namely Ram Lamb Raising Scheme sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India was started at these centres to provide marketing facilities to the breeders for Ram Lambs bred by them. Each Extension-cum-Shearing Centre is manned by one Extension Officer or a Supervisor, 2 Stock Assistants, 1 Master Shearer, 1 Camel *Sawar* and 2 Shepherds.

A new scheme for shearing, grading and marketing of wool has also been taken up in the year 1964 by the Department. Besides, arrangements have been made at each shearing shed for the control of diseases like external parasite, internal parasite, sheep pox, etc.

The staff of the district Office consists of one District Sheep and Wool Officer, one Assistant District Sheep and Wool Officer, 3 Clerks, 1 Driver and 2 Peons.

Taxation Department

An independent office of the Commercial Taxes Officer was established in October, 1966 in Churu. Formerly, this district formed part of the Bikaner Division and the Commercial Taxes Officer, Bikaner was responsible for collection of taxes from this area too. The Office is manned by one Commercial Taxes Officer, two Assistant Commercial Taxes Officers and three Inspectors in addition to the auxiliary staff. The taxes administered through this office are Sales Tax, Rajasthan Passenger and Goods Tax, Entertainment Tax and Electricity Duty. The collection of these taxes during the year 1966-67 was of the order of Rs. 17.73 lakh, Rs. 16.27 lakh, 1.27 lakh and Rs. 0.72 lakh respectively.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

National Savings Scheme

The scheme of Small Savings was in operation in Churu even before the merger of the princely State of Bikaner with Rajasthan. At that time authorised agents for sale of Savings Certificates used to be appointed on commission basis, and the work used to be supervised by State's National Savings Advisor, headquartered at Jodhpur. Since 1956, the District Organiser has been posted at Churu to look after the work and progress of the National Small Savings Scheme in the district whose administrative head is the Assistant Regional Director, Bikaner at present. The savings schemes which are in vogue are (1) Postal Certificates, (2) Ten Years Defence Deposit Certificates, (3) Fifteen Years Annuity Certificates, (4) Post Office Savings Bank Accounts and (5) Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme. During the year 1967, Rajgarh and Sardarshahr Panchayat Samitis have been selected for intensive savings drive.

The gross sales of securities along with discharge/w thdrawal of securities during 1960-61 to 1965-66 are given below

| (Rupees) | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year | Gross Sales of securities | Discharge/Withdrawals of securities | Net Sales of securities |
| 1960-61 | 10,54,000 | 5,41,000 | 5,13,000 |
| 1961-62 | 8,29,000 | 6,05,000 | 2,24,000 |
| 1962-63 | 6,52,000 | 5,43,000 | 1,09,000 |
| 1963-64 | 5,82,000 | 5,34,000 | 48,000 |
| 1964-65 | 11,13,000 | 4,88,000 | 6,25,000 |
| 1965-66 | 8,69,000 | 6,11,000 | 2,58,000 |

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Prior to the enactment of the Municipal Act 1923, there was no Municipality in the true sense of the term in this district. However, small committees or boards were established at the following places in the years mentioned against each: Sardarshahr (1884), Rajgarh (1890), Churu and Reni (1893), Ratangarh and Sujangarh (1895), Dungargarh (1895), Rajaldesar (1922), and Ratannagar (1923). The tahsildars or naib-tahsildars at these places were ex-officio presidents of these bodies, while the Hospital Assistant and a few of the leading citizens were their members. The functions of these committees related to conservancy, lighting, prevention of encroachments on public thoroughfares, settlement of petty disputes relating to easements, provision and control of slaughter-houses and markets.

In 1917 the Government of the State of Bikaner made these bodies more broad based by adding more non official members and granted them more powers, by way of independent control over finances, to raise resources by levying taxes with the concurrence of the Government. In 1923, the set up of municipalities was re-organised under the Bikaner Municipal Act, 1923.

Municipalities were established at Chhapar and Bidasar in 1934 and 1946. The system of electing members was introduced in the municipalities of Churu, Sujangarh, Ratangarh and Sardarshahr in 1923 but was not extended to any other municipality in the district. Under the provisions of the aforesaid Act, each municipal board was to consist of not less than nine members both nominated and elected provided that unless the Government otherwise directed, three-fifth of the members were to be elected. This, of course, was applicable only to those municipalities in which the system of election had been introduced.

A municipal board had the power to appoint its secretary and employ such other officers and staff as were necessary for the efficient execution of its functions. It could also remove or dismiss them. The chief controlling revenue authority of the State could, however, direct a board to dismiss any officer or servant appointed by them. An appeal could be made to the Maharaja whose decision was final. The budget

the levy of taxes and the enforcement of bye-laws of a municipal board required prior sanction of the Government

The main sources of income of the municipalities were Octroi duty on imported articles, terminal tax, tongas and hackney carriages tax, *tah bazari* tax, duty on export of grains and interest on their surplus balances

The municipalities were responsible for such services as sanitation, lighting of public streets, construction of wells and *diggis* for drinking water, maintenance of chowkidars for watch and ward, aid to local schools and dispensaries and construction and maintenance of roads and thoroughfares

The municipal franchise in this district was confined to those who owned house property of a value of not less than Rs. 500 or who paid a rent of not less than Rs. 10 p.m. in the district municipalities for house or shop within the municipal limits or who were in the service of the former State of Bikaner, drawing salary of not less than Rs. 100 p.m. or drawing a pension of not less than Rs. 50, or were graduates of any recognised University or licensed Vakils or Mukhtars of the Bikaner High Court, provided that they were not under the age of 21 years. Women were disqualified.

After the formation of Rajasthan, the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act was enacted in 1951 to establish uniform pattern of municipalities in the State except city municipalities. It introduced the principle of election by adult franchise and all the members were elected for the first time in 1952. The Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1959 not only superseded the then existing municipalities but established a uniform system of municipal administration. Municipal board is constituted for a town having a population of more than 8,000 and municipal council for one having more than 50,000. Municipalities are empowered to employ their own staff, but an executive officer in case of a municipal board and municipal commissioner in case of Municipal Council are appointed by the State Government.

It is obligatory on the part of municipalities to levy (1) house tax, (2) octroi duty and (3) tax on professions and callings. They are, however, empowered to levy, tax on vehicle, tax on conveyances, and tax on conservancy service, and others at their option. Their resources are supplemented by the Government in the form of subsidy and loans from time to time.

There are 10 municipal boards in the district, the details of which are given below .

Churu Municipality

Municipal Board, Churu was established in 1913 consisting of 21 members, all nominated by the Government. In 1924 the strength of members, was raised to 50, which included 25 elected and 15 nominated members. In 1946 a president was elected for the first time and in 1952 all the members were also elected for the first time by adult franchise, under the provisions of the Rajasthan town Municipalities Act, 1951.

The Municipal Board consisted of 23 elected and two co-opted members before its supersession on January 24, 1967 by the State Government. Since then it is managed by an administrator.

Its main functions are.

(i) **SANITATION**—For this purpose the Board is maintaining one tractor to remove refuse and garbage and 24 carts for removing night soil. It employs 141 persons to clean the streets and maintain public health and sanitation.

(ii) **LIGHTING**—The Board is maintaining 400 electric lamp-posts.

(iii) **WATER**—Arrangements for water supply were initiated in 1960 under the urban water supply scheme by the Government and completed in 1965. The Board is maintaining 44 public stand-posts for the supply of water.

(iv) **EDUCATION**—The Municipal Board runs four primary schools which were started under the provisions of Bikaner Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1928.

The income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 2,60,300 and Rs. 2,45,159 respectively.

Ratangarh Municipality

The Municipal Board, Ratangarh was established in 1917 and consisted of 11 members, all nominated, with the Tahsildar as its ex-officio Chairman. In 1924 the strength of the members of the Board was raised to 20 of whom 12 were elected and eight nominated. In 1943 the President was elected for the first time. In 1951 the provisions

of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951 were made applicable and the members were elected by adult franchise in 1952

The Municipal Board consisted of 22 members including the co-opted members before its supersession on January 24, 1967 by the State Government. Since then it is governed by an Administrator. The office establishment includes an executive officer, five clerks and four peons for general administration; a revenue officer, a tax inspector and five clerks for tax collection. The main functions of the Municipality are:

(i) **SANITATION**—It is maintaining one tractor and three buffalo-carts for the removal of refuse and garbage. A Sanitary Inspector, four jamadars and 82 *Harijans* are responsible for keeping the streets clean and maintaining sanitary conditions

(ii) **LIGHTING**—It is maintaining 258 electric lamp-posts, 23 tube-lights, two mercury lamps and 100 lanterns.

(iii) **WATER SUPPLY**—The Board has no water works and the supply of water is arranged by Shri Sadul Water works, Ratangarh, a private concern

(iv) **EDUCATION**—The Board runs a primary school which was started under the provisions of the Bikaner Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1928

The income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs 1,58,500 and Rs 1,75,100 respectively.

Rajaldesar Municipality

Municipal Board, Rajaldesar, was established in 1942, when all the seven members and president and vice-president were nominated. In 1951 the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951 were made applicable to the Board and the members were elected, for the first time in 1952, by adult franchise

The Municipal Board, Rajaldesar was superseded by the Government of Rajasthan in 1967 and an administrator was appointed to manage its affairs

The Municipal Board looks after sanitation, lighting of the public streets and primary education. It is maintaining 101 lamp-posts

and runs a primary school. For these purposes, there is an executive officer, one Sanitary Inspector, three clerks, three nakedars, two jamadars, five peons and thirty sweepers. Further there are five teachers and one peon in the education section.

The total income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 62,633 and Rs. 62,567, respectively.

Dungargarh Municipality

Municipal Board, Dungargarh was established in 1917 as a purely nominated body. The strength of members was raised to 15 which included six nominated and nine elected members. In 1951, the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951 were made applicable to it and the members were elected, for the first time, by adult franchise in 1952.

The Municipal Board was superseded on 24-1-1967 by the State Government and is now governed by an administrator.

The Municipal Board looks after sanitation, lighting of the streets and water supply. For these purposes it is maintaining 450 electric street lamp-posts and seven wells and engages one jamadar, 50 sweepers and one mistri. The office establishment includes an Executive Officer, five clerks and five peons.

The total income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 1,34,745 and Rs. 1,56,782, respectively.

Bidasar Municipality

Municipal Board, Bidasar was established in 1946, when it consisted of a president, a vice-president and seven members, all nominated by the Government. Under the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951, the members were elected for the first time in 1952.

The functions of the Municipal Board are to look after sanitation and provide lighting in the streets.

At present the Board consists of eight elected and four co-opted (two each from Scheduled Castes and women) members.

The income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 32,873 and Rs. 32,374, respectively.

Rajgarh Municipality

Municipal Board, Rajgarh was established in 1917 and consisted of 15 nominated members. In 1951, the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951 were made applicable and all the members were elected for the first time by adult franchise in 1952. At present the Board consists of 16 members. The main functions of the Board are to look after sanitation and lighting of the streets. It maintains 225 electric lamp-posts and 189 oil lamp-posts and employs five jamadars and 75 *harijans* for maintaining sanitary conditions. The strength of office establishment is 32.

The income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 2,34,655 and Rs. 2,40,909, respectively.

Chhapar Municipality

Municipal Board, Chhapar was established in 1934, when it had two official and seven non-official members, (all nominated). In 1951, under the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951, the members were elected by adult franchise in 1952. At present the Board consists of eight elected members and four co-opted (two each from Scheduled Castes and women) members. Its main functions are to look after sanitation, provide lighting in the streets and arrange water supply. It employs one jamadar, 10 *harijans* and two cart carriers for removing filth and garbage and clean the streets. It maintains 100 lamp-posts and engages one lineman and a chowkidar for lighting the streets.

The office establishment includes an executive officer, two clerks, two nakedars and a peon.

The income and expenditure of the municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 1,04,669 and Rs. 77,232, respectively.

Sardarshahr Municipality

Municipal Board, Sardarshahr was established in 1896 A.D. as a nominated body. In 1924 the strength of Municipality was 15 which included 12 elected and three nominated members. In 1952 all the members were elected for the first time by adult franchise under the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951.

The Municipal Board consisted of 25 members, 23 elected and two co-opted women members when it was superseded on 24th

January, 1967 by the State Government Since then it has been under an Administrator appointed by the State Government

Its main functions are to look after sanitation and public health, provide lighting in the public streets, arrange water supply and undertake public utility works Besides, the Municipal Board is running three primary schools

The income and expenditure during the year 1964-65 were Rs 2,22,345 and Rs 2,34,042, respectively

Sujangarh Municipality

Municipal Board, Sujangarh was established in 1895 as a nominated body In 1924 the strength of the members was raised to 20, which included 12 elected and eight nominated members In 1952, all the members were elected for the first time by adult franchise under the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951

At the time of its supersession on 21st June, 1968 the Municipal Board consisted of 25 members, 23 elected and two co-opted. Since then it has been under an Administrator, appointed by the Government

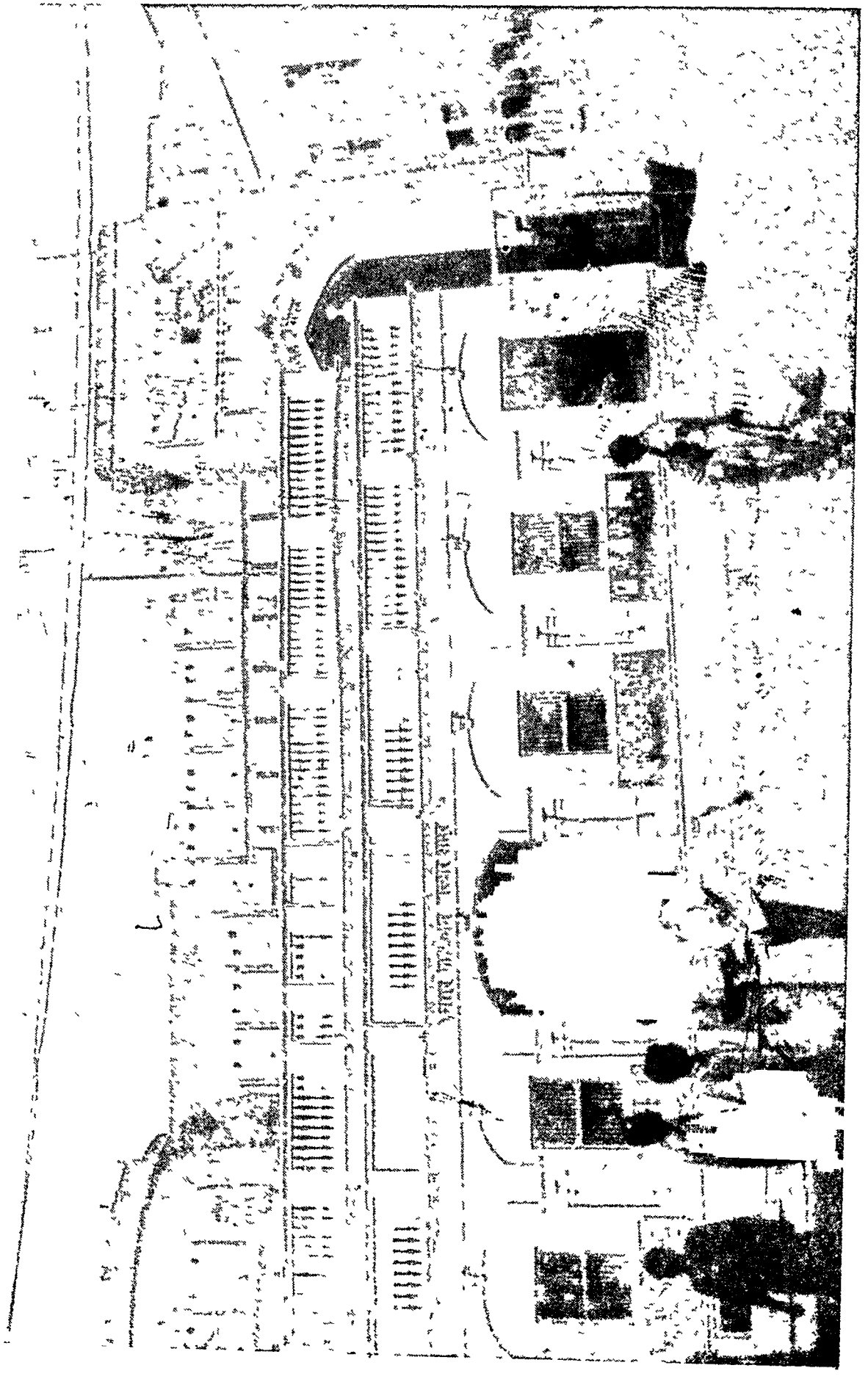
The functions of the Municipal Board are to look after sanitation and public health, provide lighting in public streets and undertake public utility works Besides, the Municipal Board is running six primary schools

The income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 3,18,398 and Rs 4,09,753, respectively

Taranagar Municipality

Municipal Board, Taranagar was established in 1917 as a nominated body. Later on, the strength of the members was raised to 12 of which four were nominated and eight elected. In 1951, the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1951 were made applicable to it and all the members were elected for the first time by adult franchise in 1952

The Municipal Board consisted of 12 members (10 elected and two co-opted members) It was superseded by the Government of Rajasthan in 1967 and an Administrator was appointed.



General administration and school buildings Sardarshahr-Municipality and Tahsil buildings

The Municipal Board looks after sanitation and lighting of public streets

The total income and expenditure of the Municipality during the year 1965-66 were Rs. 99,025 and Rs 69,760, respectively

District Boards

District Boards were established by the State of Bikaner for associating the rural population with the management of public activities within their respective areas. These boards were authorised to extend educational and medical facilities by opening primary schools and *Ayurvedic* dispensaries, regulate local fairs and distribute free medicines to the villagers. The district boards at Rajgarh and Sujargarh came into existence in 1941 and 1942 respectively. The district boards consisted of 54 (42 elected and 12 nominated) and 45 (34 elected and 11 nominated) members respectively. Their jurisdiction was co-terminus with that of the districts during the time of the erstwhile State of Bikaner. In 1948, Churu district was re-organised and the District Board, Churu was established. It consisted of 22 members. It was superseded by the Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Act in 1959.

Powers and Limitations

The Chairman of a board was appointed by the Government. The Vice-Chairman was elected by members from among themselves but the appointment was subject to the approval of the Government.

The budget of a board was sanctioned by the Government

The Revenue Commissioner could not only inspect the property, documents and records of a board but could prohibit the execution, or further execution of any resolution or order of a board, if, in his opinion, such resolution or order was of a nature to cause or tend to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury to the public or to a class or body of persons lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety or likely to cause a riot or affray.

Sources of Income

The income of a board was derived from the following sources:

(1) A levy of 6 pies (3 paisa) per rupee on land revenue in *Khalsa* villages and tribute from *Patta* villages. (ii) A charge of 1 pie (half paisa) per rupee on income in case of *Betalab* villages.

Panchayats

Village panchayats were established under the Bikaner Village Panchayat Act, 1928. The aims and objects of this enactment were to make village the lowest administrative unit. The State Government was authorised to declare any area to be a panchayat area. Panchayats established under the Act, consisted of not less than five and not more than nine elected members and were authorised to hear civil suits for sums not exceeding Rs 50 and could take cognisance of offences, namely, (i) riot, (ii) committing a public nuisance, (iii) obscene acts and songs, (iv) assault or use of criminal force, (v) theft of property not exceeding ten rupees, (vi) receiving stolen property, (vii) criminal intimidation and (viii) insulting the modesty of a woman. The maximum penalties inflicted by any panchayat could not exceed Rs 10 or double the damage or loss caused whichever was greater. The Act debarred legal practitioners to appear on behalf of any party and required parties to appear personally or through agents, such as a servant, or a partner or a relative. Cases were to be decided by majority of opinions, in case of disagreement among the members of a panchayat. No court fee was charged. Besides, the administrative duties, powers of panchayats included the management of schools, supply of drinking water, protection of tanks, maintenance of burial grounds and planting and preservation of trees. These were financed in every panchayat circle by the village fund formed by sums contributed by Government or local bodies or private person and the receipts on account of the cess not exceeding three paise per rupee of the land revenue, levied by a panchayat.

Under the supervision and control of the Revenue Department, the Commissioner, Rural Re-construction exercised general powers of inspection, supervision and control over the panchayats. He was assisted by a tahsildar. The Government had powers to suspend or dissolve any panchayat when there were reasonable grounds, warranting the same.

Panchayats came to be established immediately after the enactment in 1928 and their number increased gradually to 98 by the time the State of Bikaner was merged.¹

The Panchayat system was reoriented in 1953 under the Rajasthan Panchayat Act by setting up 108 Panchayats and seven Tahsil

1. Details are given in Appendix I

Panchayats to control them at the headquarters of all tahsils. These Tahsil Panchayats were replaced by Panchayat Samitis in 1959.

Every village or a group of villages having a population between 4,000 and 8,000 was to form a Panchayat.

The Act provided for the division of the Panchayat Circle into wards and a panch to be elected from each ward. The minimum number of panchas required for the formation of a Panchayat was five and the maximum fifteen, besides a Sarpanch. The term of a Panchayat was three years, which could be extended by one year. The Panchas and Sarpanchas were elected directly by the voters of the Panchayat area. Up-Sarpanch was elected from amongst the members. In the beginning, elections were held by show of hands but the system was afterwards changed in favour of secret ballot. Provision was made for the nomination of a panch from Scheduled Castes, if no such member was elected. Women were also nominated in the same way.

The Panchayats were expected to discharge a number of obligatory and discretionary functions, namely the construction, repair and maintenance of public wells and ponds, sanitation, street lights, registration of births, deaths and marriages, regulation of fairs and establishment and maintenance of primary schools, famine relief, establishment of reading rooms and adopt measures designed to promote the moral and material well being of the people. The Panchayats could also try suits upto the value of Rs 100, exercise the powers of III Class Magistrates except powers to order imprisonment in criminal cases, impose fines upto a maximum of Rs 15/- in administrative cases and upto Rs. 50/- in judicial cases.

Tahsil Panchayats

Under the Rajasthan Panchayat Act 1953, seven Tahsil Panchayats, each at the headquarter of a tahsil were established. Each Tahsil Panchayat consisted of a Sarpanch and six to eight Panchas elected out of an electoral college consisting of the Panchas and Sarpanchas of the Panchayats in that tahsil.

The Tahsil Panchayats heard appeals against orders, decisions, decrees or sentences passed by the Panchayats.

Democratic Decentralisation

The Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Act, 1959 has introduced a three tier system of local self-government which was

inaugurated on October 2, 1959 Under the Act, 202 Panchayats at the village level seven Panchayat Samitis and a Zila Parishad at the district level have been established in this district

NEW SET-UP

Panchayats

Panchayats have been made co-terminus with the smallest unit of revenue administration, that is *Patwar* circle A village Panchayat serves a population between 1,500 to 2,000 and consists of eight to fifteen panchas excluding the Sarpanch Provision has been made to co-opt two women Panchas, one Scheduled Caste and other Scheduled Tribe in areas, where their population exceeds five per cent of the total population The sources of revenue of Panchayats are taxes, cattle ponds, court fees, fines, fairs, sale of land and share from the land revenue

While formerly the Panchayats were vested with both the developmental and judicial functions, these are now divested of the judicial functions which have been vested in the newly constituted Nyaya Panchayats The Panchayat Samitis are primary units for planning and local development while the function of the Zila Parishad is co ordination of the working of Panchayat Samitis in the District

Elections under the new Act were held in December 1960 and 1964 Panchas (excluding co-opted Panchas) were elected in 202 Panchayats The Panchayat set-up was, for the first time, organised on the basis of adult suffrage Table given below gives information relating to the number of Panchayat Samitis, Nyaya Panchayats, Village Panchayats and number of members in Panchayat Samitis.

| S No | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats | No of members in Panchayat Samitis |
|------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ratannagar | 4 | 25 | 31 |
| 2 | Rajgarh | 7 | 42 | 47 |
| 3 | Taranagar | 4 | 21 | 28 |
| 4 | Ratangarh | 4 | 24 | 31 |
| 5 | Sardarshahr | 6 | 33 | 39 |
| 6 | Sujangarh | 6 | 34 | 41 |
| 7 | Dungargarh | 4 | 24 | 31 |

Nyaya Panchayats

To separate judicial functions from executive at the village level, 35 Nyaya Panchayats in the district having jurisdiction over an area of five to seven Panchayats have been established. The details of Nyaya Panchayats are given in Appendix III. Its members are elected by the constituent Panchayats each electing one Nyaya Panch. Chairman of the Nyaya Panchayat is elected by members from amongst themselves. Nyaya Panchayats have been empowered to try certain minor criminal offences (specified in a schedule attached to the Act)¹ and to impose fines not exceeding Rs 50. In the event of non-payment the matter is brought to the notice of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate who makes recovery as in the case of fines imposed by himself.

In civil cases these Panchayats have jurisdiction to try suits not exceeding Rs 250 in value. There is no provision for appeal against the orders of a Nyaya Panchayat, but there can be revision in the court of Munsif in civil suits and in the court of Magistrate 1st class in criminal cases.

Panchayat Samitis

Every Panchayat Samiti consists of all Sarpanchas of the Panchayats in the Samiti area and *Krishi Nipun* as the ex officio members. Provision has been made to co-opt two women, two from Scheduled Castes and Tribes and two having experience in administration, public life or rural development, one representative of co-operative societies and one representative of the Gramdan villages. Associate members can participate in deliberations, but can not vote.

Panchayat Samitis have full powers to frame their budgets and formulate the Annual Plans of development within the frame-work of the State Plan. The Samiti Plan covers all the development sectors e.g. animal husbandry, primary education, local communication, sanitation, health and medical relief and local amenities, etc.

1 Offences under sections 140, 160, 172, 174, 175, 178, 179, 180, 188, 202, 228, 264, 265, 266, 267, 269, 277, 278, 279, 283, 285, 286, 288, 289, 290, 294, 323, 334, 336, 341, 352, 356, 357, 358, 374, 379, 380, 381, 403, 411, 426, 430, 447, 448, 461, 504, 505, 509, 510, of the Indian Penal Code 1860 and Offences under the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, the Vaccination Act, 1880, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890, Rajasthan Public Gambling Ordinance, 1949, Rajasthan Prevention of Juvenile Smoking Act, 1950, and any other offence under any law declared by the State Government to be triable by Nyaya Panchayat.

The income of the Panchayat Samitis consists of State grants, peoples' participation in the form of labour contributions, and taxes on fairs, trades, professions, industries and entertainment, cesses on rent of agricultural land, primary education and contracts given for the collection of bones, in the Panchayat Samiti area

There are seven Panchayat Samitis in Churu District. Some details about them are given below:

Panchayat Samiti Sardarshahr

It covers 33 village Panchayats having 177 villages with an area of 3,846 sq. km. Panchayat Samiti consists of 33 Sarpanchas, five ex-officio, four co-opted and two associate members. The Panchayat Samiti covers a development block which was started in 1956-57 and is in the second stage.

The Panchayat Samiti has imposed five percent surcharge on land revenue. The income and expenditure of the Samiti for the year 1965-66 were Rs 4,66,605 and Rs 5,36,814 respectively.

Panchayat Samiti Ratangarh

Panchayat Samiti, Ratangarh consists of 24 village Panchayats and covers 95 villages with an area of 1,699 sq. km. It consists of 33 members, who include 24 Sarpanchas, four co-opted (two each from women and Scheduled Castes), two associate members, one Pradhan, one M. L. A. and the Sub-Divisional Officer.

The development block of the Samiti is in the first stage. The Panchayat Samiti has imposed five per cent surcharge on the land revenue and education cess at the rate of rupee one on every family. The income and expenditure for the year 1965-66 amounted to Rs 34,230 and Rs 4,75,614 respectively.

Panchayat Samiti Rajgarh

Panchayat Samiti, Rajgarh has 42 village Panchayats and consists of 52 members including 42 Sarpanchas, four ex-officio, four co-opted and associate members. The development block of the Samiti which was opened in 1958-59 is in the second stage.

The Samiti has imposed five percent surcharge on land revenue and an education cess at the rate of rupee one on each family. The income and expenditure in 1965-66 amounted to Rs. 7,17,441 and Rs 5,43,427 respectively.

Panchayat Samiti Taranagar

Panchayat Samiti, Taranagar comprises 21 village Panchayats. It consists of 21 Sarpanchas four co-opted (two each from women and Scheduled Castes), one M. L. A. and a Pradhan. The development block was opened in 1962-63 which is in the second stage. The Panchayat Samiti has levied five per cent surcharge on land revenue and education cess at the rate of rupee one on each family.

The income and expenditure during the year 1965-66 were Rs 1,02,680 and Rs 96,176 respectively.

Panchayat Samiti Sujangarh

Panchayat Samiti, Sujangarh consists of 34 village panchayats having 34 Sarpanchas, four co-opted members, two M. L. A., one ex-officio member and one Pradhan. The development block was started in 1960-61 and is in the first stage.

The Panchayat Samiti has levied five per cent surcharge on land revenue. The income and expenditure in 1965-66 amounted to Rs. 6,17,989 and Rs 6,78,856 respectively.

Panchayat Samiti Dungargarh

Panchayat Samiti, Dungargarh comprises 24 village panchayats and consists of 34 members including 24 sarpanchas, two ex-officio members four co-opted, one additional and three associate members. The development block was started in 1958-59 and is in the first stage.

The Samiti has levied five per cent surcharge on land revenue and an education cess at the rate of rupees two on each family. The income and expenditure during the year 1965-66 were Rs 4,21,627 and Rs 5,57,227 respectively.

Panchayat Samiti Ratannagar

Panchayat Samiti, Ratannagar comprises 25 Village Panchayats. It consists of 34 members, out of whom 24 are Sarpanchas, four are co-opted (two women and two from Scheduled Castes) and four associate members, one Pradhan and one member of the Legislative Assembly.

The development block was opened in 1962 and is in the first stage.

The Samiti has levied five per cent surcharge on land revenue and an education cess at the rate of two rupees on each family

ZILA PARISHAD

The Churu Zila Parishad was constituted on October 2, 1959 under the Democratic Decentralisation Scheme, which superseded the district board. It consists of 23 members which include a Pramukh, an Up-Pramukh, four members of Parliament, five members of the State Legislative Assembly, seven Pradhans of the Panchayat Samitis in the district, one woman (co-opted member), the President of the Co-operative Bank in the district, the President Central Co-operative Bank Ltd, Churu and the Collector

The Zila Parishad has not been assigned any executive function. Its main role is to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the seven Panchayat Samitis in the district, to maintain liaison between the State Government on the one hand and Panchayat Samitis on the other. It also prepares District Plan on the basis of the plans of the constituent Panchayat Samitis

APPENDIX I

Distribution of Village Panchayats in Churu district in 1950

| S No | Tahsil | Village Panchayas |
|------|------------------|---|
| 1 | Churu Tahsil | 1 Boontiya 2 Khasoli 3 Nakrasar 4 Satra 5 Thelasar 6. Dheerasar 7 Sahjusr 8. Karwasar 9 Rampura 10 Ladriya 11. Bhamasi 12 Guidari |
| 2 | Rajgarh Tahsil | 1 Bhensli 2 Nerasar Bade 3 Bhanela 4. Dangal Choti 5 Sooratpura 6 Ratanpura 7 Dhingarwali 8 Kalri 9 Mithri Kesharsingh 10 Hamirwas Bara 11 Dokwa 12 Lambor Bari 13. Bhojan 14 Sidhmukh 15 Galar 16 Ramsara Tal 17 Dhanoti Bari 18 Kahiru Bari 19. Ghanaoo |
| 3 | Taranagar Tahsil | 1. Sahwa 2. Kalwas |

| S. No. | Tahsil | Village Panchayats |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | 3 Rayya Tunda |
| | | 4. Dheerwas Bara |
| | | 5. Buchawas |
| | | 6 Gajuwas |
| | | 7. Punrasar |
| | | 8 Togawas |
| | | 9. Nethwa |
| | | 10 Bhalera |
| | | 11 Jhoyara |
| | | 12 Santyu |
| | | 13. Meghsar |
| | | 14 Kalas |
| 4 | Ratangarh Tahsil | 1. Gogasar |
| | | 2 Parihara |
| | | 3 Loha |
| | | 4. Parasneu |
| | | 5 Nuwan |
| | | 6 Lachharsar |
| | | 7. Golsar |
| | | 8 Hanmoosar |
| | | 9. Nosariya |
| | | 10 Jaleoo |
| | | 11. Huren |
| | | 12 Jaitasar |
| | | 13 Pabusar |
| | | 14 Barjansar |
| 5 | Sardarshahr Tahsil | 1. Bandhnaoo |
| | | 2. Bukansar |
| | | 3. Khejra |
| | | 4 Bhadasar |
| | | 5. Jaisangsar |
| | | 6 Ajeetsar |
| | | 7. Derajsar |
| | | 8. Mahrasar |
| | | 9. Poolasar |
| | | 10 Dulrasar |
| | | 11. Shimla |

| S.No. | Tahsil | Village Panchayats |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | | 12 Fogawas Bharkar |
| | | 13. Goga Bas Guda |
| | | 14 Bhojrasar |
| | | 15. Degan |
| | | 16 Bhanipura |
| | | 17 Sadhasar |
| | | 18 Ratoosar |
| 6 | Dungargarh Tahsil | 1. Momasar |
| | | 2 Sudsar |
| | | 3 Bina - |
| | | 4. Riri |
| | | 5. Upni |
| | | 6 Likhmisar |
| | | 7 Lakhasar |
| | | 8. Dhukarisar |
| | | 9 Dheerdesar |
| | | 10 Adsar |
| | | 11. Gusarisar |
| | | 12 Dushmana |
| | | 13 Jhangheu |
| | | 14 Kalyansar Nawa Bad |
| | | 15 Abhaisingh Pura |
| | | 16 Pundalsar |
| 7 | Sujargarh Tahsil | 1 Jantasar |
| | | 2. Dariba |
| | | 3. Dewani |
| | | 4 Rajiyasar |
| | | 5 Guleriya |

APPENDIX II

Physical achievements in the Panchayat Samitis in Churu district for the year 1965-66

| S No | Items | Unit | Sardarshahr | Rajgarh | Dungargarh | Sujargarh | Ratangarh | Taranagar | Ratanagar |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | Peoples' Participation | Rs in '000 | 2 | 48 | 47 | 26 | 15 | - | - |
| 2 | Fertilisers distributed | in quintals | 2 99 | 81 74 | 89 95 | 19 04 | 9 33 | 782 32 | 19 04 |
| 3 | Improved seed distributed | in quintals | 94 43 | 1,506 40 | 60 46 | 17 92 | 9 70 | 933 10 | 1 89 |
| 4 | Agricultural Implements distributed | Nos. | 414 | 683 | 38 | 38 | 18 | 241 | 246 |
| 5 | Agricultural Demonstrations held | Nos | 33 | 41 | 33 | 44 | 6 | 141 | 11 |
| 6 | Med Bandi | Hectares | 3,723 88 | 11,446 54 | 698 25 | 4,929 31 | 531 75 | 3,409 43 | 5,367 65 |
| 7 | Fruit Plants distributed | Nos | - | - | - | 63 | - | 1,077 | - |
| 8 | Improved Animals distributed | Nos | 75 | 31 | 26 | 8 | 12 | 122 | - |
| 9 | Improved birds distributed | Nos | - | 56 | 87 | - | - | - | 13 |
| 10 | Wells constructed for irrigation | Nos | - | 15 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | Area brought under irrigation | Hectares | - | 53 00 | 8 90 | 35 61 | - | 9.30 | 5 26 |
| 12 | New Co-operative Societies organised | Nos | - | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | - | 3 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----|---|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|----|-----|
| 13. | Membership | Nos. | 855 | 207 | 505 | 175 | 347 | 31 | 747 |
| 14 | Construction of drinking water wells | Nos. | - | 45 | - | 1 | - | 68 | - |
| 15. | Libraries opened | Nos. | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| 16. | Women Associations organised | Nos. | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| 17. | Adult Education Centres opened | Nos. | 40 | 181 | 110 | 125 | 43 | - | 50 |
| 18. | Adults made literate | Nos. | 530 | 2 | 2129 | 3511 | 1029 | - | 537 |
| 19. | Youth Clubs started | Nos. | 36 | 4 | 1 | - | 26 | - | 24 |
| 20. | Village Houses constructed | Nos. | - | - | 56 | - | - | - | - |

APPENDIX III

**List of Panchayat Samitis, Nyaya Panchayats and Panchayats
in Churu district in 1967-68**

| S No | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats |
|------|------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Sardarshahr | 1 Poolasar 2. Shimla 3 Bandhnaoo 4 Ramsisar 5 Dhami Panchera 6 Malsar | 1. Bheekamsara Bara 2 Phoga 3. Jaisangsar 4 Aspalsar 5 Derajsar 6. Rooplisar 7. Malaksar 8 Shimla 9 Poolasar 10 Tolasar 11. Adsisar 12 Dhami Panchera 13 Melusar 14 Sadhasar 15. Mahrasar 16. Madasar 17 Mahri 18 Mojusar Upadhian 19. Bandhnaoo 20. Rajasar Beekan 21 Kaklasar 22 Jaitasar 23 Jaitsisar 24 Malsar 25 Pichaka Rai Tal 26 Bhojasar Chhota 27 Ajeetsar 28 Ratoosar 29. Dulrasar 30 Ramsisar Medwalia 31. Billyun Bas Raipura 32 Beekamsara 33 Rangaisar |

| S No | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats |
|------|------------------|--|---|
| 2 | Ratangarh | 1. Gogasar 2. Parasneu 3. Loha 4. Ratansara | 1. Gogasar 2. Meloosar 3. Bhanooda 4. Golsar 5. Nosariya 6. Parasneu 7. Lachharsar 8. Simsia Bidawatan 9. Binadesar 10. Nuwan 11. Bharpalsar 12. Loha 13. Menasar 14. Parihara 15. Bhookhredi 16. Kanwar 17. Loonchh 18. Kumsumdesar 19. Bachhrara Bara 20. Ratansara 21. Jandawa 22. Daudsar 23. Tidiasar 24. Gorisar |
| 3 | Rajgarh | 1. Paharsar 2. Dadrewa 3. Sidhmukh 4. Sankhoo 5. Bewar 6. Chand Gothi 7. Dokwa | 1. Sidhmukh 2. Bheemsana 3. Ramsara Tal 4. Galar 5. Dhanothi Bari 6. Digarla 7. Chenpura Chhota 8. Dhanau 9. Sulkhaniya 10. Dadrewa 11. Paharsar 12. Gulpura 13. Sooratpura |

| S No. | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats |
|-------|------------------|---|---|
| | | | 14 Birmikhalsa 15. Radha Chhoti 16. Kheru Bari 17. Kalri 18. Lambor Bari 19. Bhuwari 20. Dokwa 21. Ratanpura 22. Kalana 23. Berasar 24. Dhani 25. Beejawas 26. Neema 27. Neshal 28. Naurangpura 29. Chand Gothi 30. Noohand 31. Rampura 32. Bhensli 33. Nawan 34. Sankhan Tal 35. Bhagela 36. Lakhlan 37. Sankhoo 38. Bewar 39. Sewa 40. Mehlana Utrada 41. Hamirwas Bara 42. Gothabari |
| 4 | Dungargarh | 1. Sudsar 2. Bigga 3. Adsar 4. Bapeu | 1. Momasar 2. Adsar 3. Bapeu 4. Upni 5. Likhmisar 6. Dheerdesar Chhota 7. Sanwatsar |

| S No | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats |
|------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | | | 8 Seruna |
| | | | 9 Jodhasar |
| | | | 10 Lakhasar |
| | | | 11 Punrasar |
| | | | 12. Udrasar |
| | | | 13 Bigga |
| | | | 14 Barela |
| | | | 15 Barjangsar |
| | | | 16 Indpalsar Sakhlan |
| | | | 17 Bana |
| | | | 18 Riri |
| | | | 19. Toliyasar |
| | | | 20 Sudsar |
| | | | 21 Soniyasar |
| | | | 22 Gusainsar |
| | | | 23 Dusarna |
| | | | 24 Dulchasar |
| 5 | Ratannagar | 1. Depalsar | 1 Ratannagar |
| | | 2. Ghantel | 2. Thelasar |
| | | 3 Dudwakhara | 3. Depalsar |
| | | 4 Chhanchu | 4 Binasar |
| | | | 5. Satra |
| | | | 6 Sahnali |
| | | | 7 Jasrasar |
| | | | 8. Nakrasar |
| | | | 9. Ghantel |
| | | | 10 Jharia |
| | | | 11. Khandwa |
| | | | 12. Pithisar |
| | | | 13 Khinwasar |
| | | | 14 Jodi |
| | | | 15 Sahjusar |
| | | | 16. Boontyia |
| | | | 17. Dudwakhara |
| | | | 18 Indrapura |
| | | | 19. Lohsana |
| | | | 20 Sirsala |

| S No | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats |
|------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | | | 21 Chhanchu |
| | | | 22. Lakhao |
| | | | 23 Dhadar |
| | | | 24 Khasoli |
| | | | 25 Jasrasar |
| 6 | Sujanrhi | 1 Bheenwsar | 1. Gewarsar |
| | | 2. Khudi | 2 Amarsar |
| | | 3. Chadwas | 3 Kandhalsar |
| | | 4 Amarsar | 4. Sadoo Chhoti |
| | | 5 Jili | 5 Kalyansar |
| | | 6. Sandwa | 6 Lalgah |
| | | | 7 Iyara |
| | | | 8 Bagsara |
| | | | 9 Kanuta |
| | | | 10 Mundra |
| | | | 11 Jili |
| | | | 12 Udwalla |
| | | | 13. Bamboo |
| | | | 14 Sandwa |
| | | | 15. Luhara |
| | | | 16. Dunkar |
| | | | 17 Gopalpura |
| | | | 18 Guleriya |
| | | | 19 Abasar |
| | | | 20. Harasar |
| | | | 21. Badabar |
| | | | 22. Malsisar |
| | | | 23. Lodsar |
| | | | 24. Bheenwsar |
| | | | 25 Salasar |
| | | | 26 Musdakia |
| | | | 27 Sobhasar |
| | | | 28 Khariya Kaniram |
| | | | 29 Khuri |
| | | | 30 Jogaliya |
| | | | 31. Jaitasar |
| | | | 32 Dariba |

| S No | Panchayat Samiti | Nyaya Panchayats | Village Panchayats |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | 33. Dadwas |
| | | | 34. Katar |
| 7 | Taranagar | 1. Buchawas | 1. Buchawas |
| | | 2. Banch | 2. Banch |
| | | 3. Sahwa | 3. Sahwa |
| | | 4. Rajpura | 4. Rajpura |
| | | | 5. Santyu |
| | | | 6. Raiya Tuna |
| | | | 7. Dhcerwas Bara |
| | | | 8. Anandi Singh Pura |
| | | | 9. Pandreu Tal |
| | | | 10. Mirwala |
| | | | 11. Redi |
| | | | 12. Kalwas |
| | | | 13. Nethwa |
| | | | 14. Jharsar Kandhalan |
| | | | 15. Hadiyal |
| | | | 16. Jharsar Chhota |
| | | | 17. Somsisar |
| | | | 18. Bhaleri |
| | | | 19. Gujuwas |
| | | | 20. Alayala |
| | | | 21. Punras |

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Before the advent of education in the present form the only schools were the Hindu temples, Jain monasteries and the *pathshalas*. There were a few special *pathshalas* where the sons of the business community were taught the fundamentals of arithmetic and book-keeping and letter writing.

It was only in the year 1865, that a beginning of modern education was made by opening two vernacular primary schools one at Reni (now called Taranagar) and another at Sardarshahr. One primary school was established at Churu in 1886, another in 1887, and at Ratangarh and Rajgarh in 1887-88. Educational facilities continued to expand gradually, during the first half of the present century but actual number of schools opened in the later decades is not available as the Annual Administration Reports of the erstwhile Bikaner State do not contain such information for the constituent districts. However, the number of educational institutions increased in the former State of Bikaner after the introduction of new educational scheme in 1918 which envisages wider diffusion of primary education by opening new State schools and giving liberal grants-in-aid to private institutions.

The enforcement of the Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1928 was a land-mark in the history of education. Its provisions were of a permissive nature in as much as it was open to the Municipalities to apply for sanction to enforce it in any particular area. The Government assumed the responsibility for two-thirds of the cost on compulsory education and one-third was to be borne by the local bodies. Accordingly, 19 compulsory primary schools were started by the Municipal Boards in this district, four by the Municipal Board, Churu, six by the Municipal Board, Sujangarh, four by the Municipal Board, Rajgarh, three by the Municipal Board, Sardarshahr and one by the Municipal Boards of Rajaldesar and Ratangarh respectively. All these primary schools are still being run by the Municipal Boards.

Since information for the area comprising the Churu district is not available, the progress of education may be gauged from the figures relating to the erstwhile princely State of Bikaner which included this area as well.

| Year | State Schools | Teachers No | Pupils No | Expenditure (Rs) |
|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1897-98 | 29 | 49 | 1,606 | 18,125 |
| 1911-12 | 43 | 96 | 3,056 | 62,040 |
| 1918-19 | 60 | 169 | 3,512 | 84,299 |
| 1920-21 | 74 | 205 | 5,238 | 1,42,162 |
| 1925-26 | 71 | 211 | 4,795 | 1,38,735 |
| 1930-31 | 108 | 328 | 7,701 | 2,41,537 |
| 1935-36 | 122 | 386 | 9,361 | 2,92,357 |
| 1940-41 | 131 | N A | 12,313 | 4,06,677 |
| 1945-46 | 201 | N A | 18,187 | 4,22,252 |

Administrative Set-Up

Before the merger of the State of Bikaner the education department of the district was controlled by the Inspector of Schools with his headquarters at Bikaner. The jurisdiction of the Inspectorate extended over the territory, now comprising the districts of Churu, Ganganagar and Bikaner. The Inspectorate was divided into five circles and each circle was in the charge of a Deputy Inspector of Schools. The girls' schools were under the control of the Inspectress of Schools, Bikaner who was assisted by an Assistant Inspectress of Girls' Schools. The territorial limits of none of these circles exactly coincide with the area now forming the district.

With the merger of the erstwhile Bikaner State, the Bikaner division including the districts of Bikaner, Ganganagar and Churu, was placed under the charge of a Special Education Officer, who was later on designated as Inspector of Schools. He was assisted by three Deputy Inspectors, of which one was posted at Churu. In 1956, the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Churu was raised to that of an Inspector of Schools, who was made exclusively responsible for the Churu district. The girls' schools were controlled by a Deputy Inspectress of Schools, Bikaner, but the office was raised to that of Inspectress in 1964. The Inspectress of Girls' Schools with headquarters at Bikaner, holds the charge of the girls' schools of the Bikaner Division, comprising the districts of Churu, Bikaner and Ganganagar. On the formation of the Panchayat Samitis, the management of the primary schools, located in the rural areas was transferred to them,

and the posts of Sub-Deputy Inspectors were abolished and instead each Samiti was given an Education Extension Officer to supervise the working of these schools. The Inspector and the Deputy Inspector of Schools are available to the Samitis for advice. They also control the high and middle schools alongwith the primary schools which have not been handed over to the local bodies.

The Primary Education

The number of the primary schools in the district was 92 in 1950-51. Since then their number has been fast increasing as a result of the policy of the State to provide free and compulsory elementary education to all school-going children. The number of schools increased to 299 in 1956-57, 531 in 1960-61, and 630 (609 for boys and 21 for girls) in 1965-66. The number of scholars and teachers of the Primary Schools in 1956-57 was 10,460 and 404, in 1960-61, 30,234 and 880 and in 1965-66, 41,428 and 1,377 respectively. In the year 1965-66, 129 schools were controlled by the Inspector of Schools, 19 were under the Municipalities, and one under the Railway Administration, and 21 under the Inspectress of Girls' Schools and the rest totalling 459 were under the Panchayat Samitis.

Middle Schools

The number of middle schools in the district was 12 in 1951, which increased to 37, 56 and 75 in 1956-57, 1960-61 and 1965-66 respectively. In 1956-57, the number of scholars and teachers was 3,034 and 155 respectively. Their respective strength was 12,344 and 442 in 1960-61 and 16,809 and 620 in 1965-66. Out of the total of 75 Middle Schools, 60 boys' Middle Schools are controlled by the Inspector of Schools, Churu and 15 Girls' Middle Schools by the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Bikaner. The location of these institutions is given in the Appendix I. The girls' schools are mostly located in towns.

High and Higher Secondary Schools

In the year 1950-51 there were six High Schools for boys but there was no separate school for girls in the district. Their number increased to 14 (all boys) in 1956-57, 20 (17 for boys and 3 for girls) in 1960-61 and 30 (25 for boys and five for girls) in 1965-66. The number of students and teachers was 5,682 and 284 in 1956-57, 7,711 and 377 in 1960-61 and 12,860 and 563 in 1965-66 respectively. The details of these institutions are given in Appendix II.



Lohia College, Churu, one of the leading learning centres in the district

Colleges

On the eve of merger of the erstwhile State of Bikaner, there was only one College namely Lohia College, Churu in the district. The number rose to five in 1956-57 and six in 1965-66. Among them, three were for general education, one for special education and two for professional education. The following table shows the number of scholars and teachers since 1956 for three years:

| Colleges for | Scholars | | | Teachers | | |
|------------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| | 1956-57 | 1960-61 | 1965-66 | 1956-57 | 1960-61 | 1965-66 |
| General Education | 760 | 502 | 679 | 55 | 51 | 53 |
| Professional Education | 172 | 329 | 359 | 23 | 34 | 33 |

COLLEGES FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

LOHIA COLLEGE, CHURU

Lohia College, Churu was started in 1945 as an Intermediate College and raised to Degree Standard in 1950. It owes its origin to Seth Kanhiya Lal Lohia who donated the College building and a hostel which has a capacity to accommodate 240 students.

The College is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan and imparts education for Pre-University and Three-Years Degree Courses in the faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce. The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 452 and 34 respectively. The College Library contained 16,000 books and subscribed 85 periodicals during 1965-66.

SETH BUDHMAL DUGAR COLLEGE, SARDARSHAHR—

Seth Budhmal Dugar College, Sardarshahr was started in 1951 as an Intermediate College and raised to a Degree Standard in 1960. The College building was donated by Seth Jabarmal Dugar in the memory of his father Shri Budhmal Dugar. The College is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan and imparts education for Pre-University and Three-Years Degree Courses in the faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce. The College subscribes to 75 periodicals and its library contains 8,165 books. The strength of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 227 and 19 respectively.

SONA DEVI SETHIA GIRL'S COLLEGE, SUJANGARH—

Sona Devi Sethia Girl's College, Sujangarh was established in 1966. It imparts education for the Three-Years Degree Course in the faculty of Arts. The College Library consists of 3,146 books and subscribes 18 periodicals. The College also has a hostel.

PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES

BASIC TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE, SARDARSHAHR

This is one of the institutions of Vidya Mandir Sardarshahr. It was started in 1953 to prepare teachers and students for the Senior Teacher Certificate Examinations conducted by the Education Department, Rajasthan. In 1958 it was raised to the Degree Standard and facilities for post-graduate and Ph.D. Courses were added later on.

The College is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan and imparts education for B.Ed., M.Ed., and Ph.D. in the faculty of Education. It runs S.T.C. classes also. The College has three hostels which can accommodate 285 students. It has a library consisting of 12,300 books, subscribes 80 periodicals and publishes an educational magazine *Adarsh Shiksha*. The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 285 and 23 respectively.

GOVERNMENT BASIC TEACHERS' TRAINING SCHOOL, SUJANGARH

Government Basic Teachers' Training School, Sujangarh was established in 1956 at Churu and transferred to Sujangarh in 1959. It prepares students for the S.T.C. examination conducted by the Government of Rajasthan. The College has hostel facilities for about 100 students. The strength of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 143 and 11 respectively.

AYURVED VISHWA BHARATI, SARDARSHAHR

Ayurved Vishwa Bharti is one of the institutions of Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardarshahr. It was started in 1956. It is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan and Rajasthan Ayurved Board for its examinations. It is a post-graduate college and provides training to students for *Pratyasansmaran* (Refresher Course), *Bhushagvar* (Degree Course in Ayurved) and *Bhusagacharya* examinations conducted by the Rajasthan Ayurved Board and Ayurved *Praveshika* examinations of the University of Rajasthan. The College has a hostel which can accommodate 80 students.

It has also a Pharmacy known as Gram Jyoti Kendra Pharmacy which prepares Ayurvedic medicines. A hospital with 50 beds where patients are provided free treatment is attached to it. A mobile dispensary provides free medical service to the neighbouring villages.

The strength of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 74 and 10 respectively. The number of successful candidates in 1965-66 was 350, which included 50 *Bishagacharyas*, 50 *Bhishagvars* and 250 *Vaids* under Refresher Course.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARD

According to the 1951 Census, 10.1 per cent of population was literate, the percentage being 15.3 among males and 4.54 among females. In the urban area it was 22.3 per cent (males 33.6 per cent and females 11 per cent) and in the rural area 3.2 per cent (males 5.7 per cent and females 0.8 per cent). By 1961 the percentage of literacy rose to 18.14 in the district, the percentage for males and females being 27.47 and 8.21 respectively. The percentage of literacy increased to 32.80 (45.42 for males and 20.00 for females) in urban and to 11.38 (19.48 for males and 2.55 for females) in rural areas. The literacy percentage of the district is 18.14 as compared to 15.21 for Rajasthan as a whole¹. In 1951, the number of students who passed the High School Examination was 1,016 (867 males and 149 females). The number of Intermediates was 133 (114 males and 19 females). Those who qualified in teaching numbered 172 (158 males and 14 females). The number of graduates in Law, Medicine, Commerce and Engineering was 20, 20, 10 and one respectively. According to the Census of 1961 the number of persons at various educational levels was as follows²:

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1. Literate without educational level | | | |
| Urban | 35,135 | 17,679 | 52,814 |
| Rural | 35,782 | 4,780 | 40,562 |
| | | Total | 93,376 |
| 2. Primary or Junior Basic | | | |
| Urban | 7,899 | 2,718 | 10,617 |
| Rural | 8,844 | 707 | 9,551 |
| | | Total | 20,168 |

¹ *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1962*.

² *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C-(i), pp. 86-87, 96-99 and 124*.

| | | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| 3. Matriculation | Urban | 3,675 | 204 | 3,879 |
| | Rural | 11,194 | 26 | 1,220 |
| | Total | | | 5,099 |
| 4. Technical Diploma | Urban | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| | Total | | | 9 |
| 5. Non-technical Diploma | Urban | 94 | 10 | 104 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| | Total | | | 104 |
| 6. Degree | Urban | 685 | 27 | 712 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| 7. Engineering | Urban | 11 | - | 11 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| 8. Medicine | Urban | 71 | 1 | 72 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| 9. Veterinary | Urban | 2 | - | 2 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| 10. Teaching | Urban | 24 | - | 24 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |
| 11. Others | Urban | 2 | - | 2 |
| | Rural | - | - | - |

INSTITUTIONS OF ORIENTAL LEARNING

1. Rajasthan Chhatravas Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Churu was established in 1918 which prepares candidates for the *Praveshika* examinations conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan, Ajmer. The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 181 and nine respectively.

2. Rajasthan Rishikul Brahmchariyasharam, Ratangarh was started in v s 1976 (A D 1919) by Shri Gokaran Ji and Shri Madhav Prasad Sharma. It prepares candidates for the *Praveshika* Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan, Ajmer. The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 325 and

10 respectively. The Ashram also runs Shri Gokaran Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Madhav Hindi College, Murlı Gyan Niketan, Vaidhyanath Saraswati Sadan and Madhav Bal Mandir, Adarsh hostel, Jawahar Gowsadan, Agriculture farm, Govardhan Vyayamashala and Vedic Gyan Bhartiya.

3 Shri Govind Ram Taparia Sanskrit Pathshala, Ratangarh was founded by Seth Govind Ram Taparia in v s 1983 (A.D. 1926) It is managed by Govind Ram Charity Trust. It imparts education for the *Purva Praveshika* Examination conducted by the Department of Education, Rajasthan, Jaipur The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was ten and two respectively.

4. Rajasthan Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Taranagar was established in 1901 by Shri Goverdhan Prasad Shastri It prepares candidates for *Parichaya* and *Kovid* examinations conducted by Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Vardha The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 180 and seven respectively.

5 Shri Mangal Dutt Vidyalaya, Ratangarh was started by Shri Jayadeva Runthela and Shri Shiva Lal Joshi in 1917 It provides instruction for the *Praveshika* examination, conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan, Ajmer The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 100 and 15 respectively

6 Hanuman Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Sardarshahr was founded by Magani Ram Chaudhary in 1930. It prepares candidates for *Purva-Praveshika* and *Praveshika* examinations held by the Education Department, Rajasthan Jaipur and the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan, Ajmer respectively The number of students and teachers in 1965-66 was 170 and 7 respectively

SCHOOL FOR MUSIC

All India Music College, Churu

It was established in 1950 and is recognised by the Education Department, Government of Rajasthan and Sangeet Natak Academy Jodhpur. It imparts training in Indian music but does not prepare candidates for any public examination The number of teachers and students in 1966 was four and 42 (23 boys and 19 girls) respectively.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

In 1948, the State of Bikaner established the office of an Adult Education Organiser at Rajgarh. 23 centres with an average number of

20 students were started in this district under the supervision of the Adult Education Organiser.

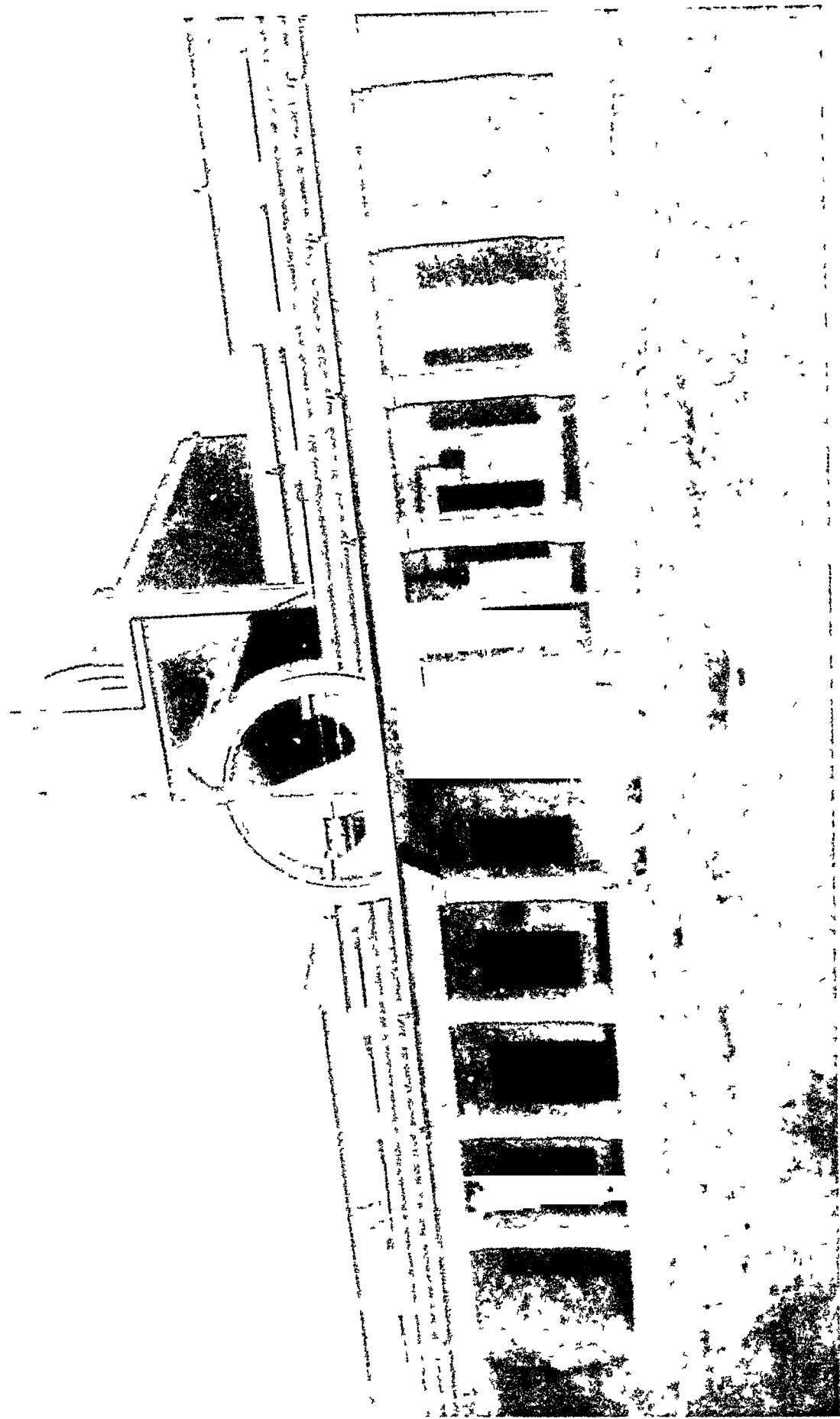
After the formation of Rajasthan attempts were made to revitalise the whole scheme but it received a new impetus only under the National Extension Service Scheme with the establishment of Development Blocks. Since Democratic Decentralisation in 1959, the Panchayat Samitis are entrusted with the task of organising adult literary classes and undertaking allied social education activities. The achievements during the period 1960-61 to 1965-66 include the establishment of 155 libraries, 64 women associations, 1,159 adult education centres (where 16,513 adults were educated) and 249 youth clubs.

GANDHI VIDYA MANDIR, SARDARSHAHR

Gandhi Vidya Mandir, a public charitable educational institution of national importance was started in 1950 in the sacred memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, with the lofty aim of educating an individual to be a true man and a true citizen in the context of the Gandhian ideology. It was founded by Shri Kanhya Lal Dugar a philanthropist of Sardarshahr, who not only donated a sum of Rs. five lac but dedicated ten years of his life to this noble adventure. A draft outline for a Rural University was drawn up in consultation with eminent educationalists, national leaders and social workers especially, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, K. L. Masruwala, Shrikrishan Dass Jaju, Acharya Aryanajakan, Shriman Narayan Agarwal and Gauri Shankar Acharya. Dr K. N. Kini was appointed its first adviser.

Gandhi Vidya Mandir made its modest beginning with the construction of *kachcha* hutments to accommodate an office and a Basic School. In 1952, Praudh Shiksha Mahavidyalaya was opened. Since then a number of institutions have been added to it, a Bal Bharati to provide primary education on Montessori lines, Gramodaya Vibhag for rural uplift and Basic Teachers' Training College (in 1953), Gram Jyoti Kendra and Dairy-cum-breeding centre (in 1954), Meera Niketan Mahila Vidya Peeth (in 1958), Seth Budhmal Dugar College (in 1959), Panchayat Raj Prashikshan Kendra (in 1960), Patanjali Yoga Ashram, Nehru International Study Centre, Sadhana Niketan and Ayurved Vishwa Bharati.

The aim of this institution was to prepare workers for rural uplift and rural reconstruction through intensive training in Ayurved,



Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardarshahr—A novel adventure in the reorientation of educational system

rural uplift, Basic Education, Village industry and the organisation of Village Service Corps For this purpose it provides instructions to candidates for Gram Seva Alankar and Gram Seva Nidhi Courses, conducted by the institution itself

Gramodaya Vibhag

The multifarious activities of Gramodaya Vibhag which include the organisation of social education camps and adult education centres, exhibitions and cultural activities in the villages, publication of literature with rural bias, helping the construction of *Gandhi-Ghars* where the village school has no building of its own, running a mobile dispensary for providing medical facilities to the rural areas and the maintenance of village reading rooms, mobile library and village libraries At present Gramodaya Vibhag is running 12 village libraries, each containing nearly 1,000 books. The number of members is about 700 to whom nearly 20,000 books are issued every year.

Panchayat Raj Prashikshan Kendra

The main function of this centre is to train the Panchas, Up-Sarpanchas, members of Nyaya Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis, Secretaries of Panchayats and others engaged in the working of the Democratic Decentralisation. This school is financed by the State Government and by the end of the year 1966-67, 1,421 Panchas, 518 Up-Sarpanchas, 390 members of Panchayat Samitis, 193 members of Nyaya Panchayats, 35 Panchayat Secretaries and 63 others were benefitted.

LIBRARIES

Surana Library, Churu

Surana Library, Churu was founded by Shri Tula Ram Surana in 1920 A.D. The library possesses about 2,000 manuscripts and a good collection of books on various subjects. It is the personal library of the Surana family and is in the possession of Shri Nirmal Kumar Singh Surana

Shri Dungargarh Pustakalaya, Dungargarh

Shri Dungargarh Pustakalaya was established in 1941 by Shri Sampatmal Bhandari, Hulash Chand Daga, Bhanwar Lal Baheti, Rughlal Baheti, Bridhi Chand Puglia- who collected funds and started it with 486 books In 1965-66 it had 7,182 books and subscribed to 40

newspapers and periodicals The number of members was 252 who utilised 3,909 books

Nav Jivan Pustakalaya, Ratannagar

Nav Jivan Pustakalaya was established in 1920 with the help and co-operation of Seth Laxminarain It contains 2,654 books on various subjects

Shri Sarvajanic Pustakalaya, Taranagar

Shri Sarvajanic Pustakalaya (Public Library) was established in 1929 It contains 6,000 books on various subjects and publishes a magazine *Abhyutthan*

Shri Sarva Hitakarini Sabha Pustakalaya, Rajgarh

Shri Sarva Hitakarini Sabha Pustakalaya was established in 1920 It contains 5,243 books on various subjects and subscribes to 40 newspapers and periodicals. The library is managed by Sarva Hitakarini Sabha, Rajgarh.

Public Library, Sardarshahr

Public Library, Sardarshahr was established in 1909 In 1965-66 it contained 20,391 books including 200 manuscripts The number of members was 1,660 who borrowed 19,181 books The library subscribes to 72 newspapers and periodicals which benefitted 1,34,580 persons in the year 1965-66

Shri Sardul Pustakalaya, Sadulpur

Shri Sardul Pustakalaya was established in 1940 It contains 2,494 books and subscribes to 29 newspapers and periodicals The number of its members was 145 in 1965-66

Shanti Library, Rajaldesar

Shanti library was established in 1918 It contains 4,778 books and subscribes to 40 newspapers and periodicals The number of members was 140 in 1965-66 The average daily number of visitors is 70.

Shri Sarva Hitakarini Sabha Pustakalaya, Churu

Shri Sarva Hitakarini Sabha Pustakalaya was established in v s 1964 (1907 A.D.) This library contains 6,115 books on various subjects

APPENDIX I

Middle Schools in Churu district in 1965-66

| S No | Name of the School | Location |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Girls | | |
| 1. | Govt Middle School, | Bidasar |
| 2. | Govt Middle School, | Chhapar |
| 3. | Sarva Hitkarini Putri Pathshala, | Churu |
| 4. | Jain Kesar Balika Vidyalaya, | Churu |
| 5. | Govt Railway Station Middle School, | Churu |
| 6. | Govt. Middle School, | Momasar |
| 7. | Tikmani Shiksha Sadan, | Rajgarh |
| 8. | Govt Middle School, | Rajaldesar |
| 9. | Govt. Middle School, | Ratannagar |
| 10. | Govt Middle School, | Ratangarh |
| 11. | Balika Vidyalaya, | Sardarshahr |
| 12. | Govt. Middle School, | Sardarshahr |
| 13. | Govt Middle School, | Sujangarh |
| 14. | Govt. Middle School, | Taranagar |
| 15. | Govt. Middle School, | Rajgarh |
| Boys | | |
| 16. | Govt Middle School, | Salasar |
| 17. | Govt Middle School, | Sadulpur |
| 18. | Govt. Middle School, | Ratangarh |
| 19. | Govt. Middle School, | Neshal |
| 20. | Govt. Middle School, | Jaitpura |
| 21. | Govt Middle School, | Sankhu |
| 22. | Govt Middle School, | Bairasar Chhoti |
| 23. | Govt Middle School, | Rampura Bairi |
| 24. | Govt. Middle School, | Laseri |
| 25. | Govt. Middle School, | Dadrewa |
| 26. | Govt. Middle School, | Ghanau |

| S No | Name of the School | Location |
|------|---------------------|----------------|
| 27 | Govt Middle School, | Radha Chhoti |
| 28 | Govt Middle School, | Satra |
| 29 | Govt Middle School, | Lakhao |
| 30 | Govt Middle School, | Ghanghoo |
| 31 | Govt Middle School, | Sandwa |
| 32 | Govt Middle school, | Bhimisar |
| 33 | Govt Middle School, | Charwas |
| 34 | Govt Middle School, | Kanota |
| 35 | Govt Middle School, | Lalgarh |
| 36 | Govt Middle School, | Gogasar |
| 37 | Govt Middle School, | Ladhasar |
| 38 | Govt Middle School, | Buchawas |
| 39 | Govt Middle School, | Bhirwas |
| 40 | Govt Middle School, | Bigga |
| 41 | Govt Middle School, | Riri |
| 42 | Govt Middle School, | Dulrasar |
| 43 | Govt Middle School, | Thukuriyasar |
| 44 | Govt Middle School, | Likhmadesar |
| 45 | Govt Middle School, | Kalyansar |
| 46 | Govt Middle School, | Dhani Panchera |
| 47 | Govt Middle School, | Gajusar |
| 48 | Govt Middle School, | Dulhasar |
| 49 | Govt Middle School, | Somas |
| 50 | Govt Middle School, | Dhaniasha |
| 51 | Govt Middle School, | Tambakheri |
| 52 | Govt Middle School, | Nawan |
| 53 | Govt Middle School, | Bhainsli |
| 54 | Govt Middle School, | Galar |
| 55 | Govt Middle School, | Paharsar |
| 56 | Govt Middle School, | Changoi |
| 57 | Govt Middle School, | Bany |

| S No | Name of the School | Location |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 58 | Govt Middle School, | Benisar |
| 59 | Govt Middle School, | Seruna |
| 60 | Govt. Middle School, | Adsar |
| 61 | Mahavir Middle School, | Sardarshahr |
| 62 | Rajendra Middle School, | Sardarshahr |
| 63 | Modern Middle School, | Sardarshahr |
| 64 | Bapa Seva Sadan Middle School, | Sardarshahr |
| 65. | Shyam Sunder Middle School, | Dungargarh |
| 66 | Shiv Middle School, | Dungargarh |
| 67. | Subhash Middle School, | Dungargarh |
| 68. | Govt. Jawahar Middle School, | Sujargarh |
| 69. | Digambar Jain Middle School, | Sujargarh |
| 70. | Prakash Middle School, | Ratangarh |
| 71 | Rajasthan Rishikul Brahmcharya Ashram | Ratangarh |
| 72. | Sarsawati Shiksha Sadan | Rajaldesar |
| 73. | Central Education Middle School, | Churu |
| 74. | Shri Sardar Vidyalaya Middle School, | Churu |
| 75. | Khemka Rajkeeya Middle School, | Churu |

APPENDIX II

List of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools in Churu district in 1965-66

| S No. | Name of institution | Year of establishment & up-gradation to | | | | No of Students in 1965-66 | No of teachers in 1965-66 | Other Particulars |
|-------|---|---|---------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | Primary School | Middle School | High School | Higher Sec School | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | L B. Bagla Govt. Girls Secondary School, Churu | - | - | 1959 | - | 168 | 10 | Building was donated by Shri L N. Bagla of Churu |
| 2 | Govt. Girls Secondary School, Dungargarh | 1928 | 1953 | 1964 | - | 424 | 26 | Building was donated by Shri Sivraj Daga of Dungargarh |
| 3 | Hanuman Junior Girls Secondary School, Ratangarh | 1928 | 1955 | 1962 | - | 610 | 23 | |
| 4 | Gandhi Girls Secondary School, Sujangarh | 1952 | 1955 | 1959 | - | 433 | 13 | |
| 5. | Meera Niketan Girls Secondary School, Sardarshahr | 1953 | 1955 | 1958 | - | 118 | 9 | |
| 6. | Gramodaya Secondary School, Khichiwala, Churu | 1945 | 1956 | 1961 | - | 179 | 7 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----------|--|--|------|------|------|-----|----|--|
| 7. | Shri Hajarimal Agrawal Govt. Secondary School, Bhagela | 1916 | 1959 | 1966 | - | 248 | 8 | Building was donated by Shri Kishori Lal Agrawal of Bhagela |
| 8. | Govt. Secondary School, Sidhmukh | 1940 | 1951 | 1966 | - | 360 | 8 | Building was donated by Shri Juhramal Mukhram Saraogi and Likhmi Chand |
| 9. P. C B | Multipurpose Higher Secondary School, Sujangarh | 1884 (Poshala) 1914 (Primary) | 1918 | 1940 | 1955 | 816 | 26 | Building was donated by Shri Pratapmal Rangmal and Gangadhar Bagaria. |
| 10. | Shri Gautam Junior Secondary School, Mehrasar Upadhiya | 1949 | 1957 | 1964 | - | 315 | 11 | Building was constructed by the management out of the funds subscribed by Maru Bhoomi Sewa Sangh |
| 11. | Govt. Secondary School, Ratan-nagar | 1898 | 1938 | 1955 | - | 402 | 22 | Building was donated by Shri Bilasrai Shivram and Raghunath Badri Narain Jalan. |
| 12. | Shist Vidyalaya, Churu | 1943 | 1947 | 1950 | - | 313 | 15 | Building was donated by by Oswals of Churu. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
|-----|--|-----------|------|------|------|------|-----|----|--|
| 13 | Govt Multipurpose School, Rajgarh | Secondary | 1896 | 1920 | 1943 | 1956 | 938 | 39 | Building was donated by Shri Gopiram Tikani. |
| 14 | Seth Sampat Ram Dugar Vidyalaya Sardarshahr | | - | 1949 | 1953 | - | 417 | 22 | Building was donated by Shri. S R Dugar |
| 15 | Govt Secondary School, Taranagar | | 1890 | 1917 | 1952 | - | 580 | 26 | |
| 16. | Govt Higher Secondary School, Sahwa | | 1922 | 1941 | 1959 | - | 300 | 17 | |
| 17. | Govt. Secondary School, Dungargarh | | 1898 | 1941 | 1949 | - | 631 | 25 | |
| 18. | Shri Raghunath Rai Jai Govt Higher Secondary School, Sujangarh | | - | - | - | 1961 | 454 | 19 | Building was erected in memory of Seth Raghunath Rai Jajoja by Seth R R Jajoja Charity Trust, Calcutta |
| 19 | Govt. Secondary School, Momasar | | 1905 | 1940 | 1966 | - | 237 | 9 | |
| 20 | Govt. Secondary School, Poolasar | | 1920 | 1956 | 1961 | - | 180 | 11 | Building was constructed by public contribution. |
| 21 | s D C s. Govt. Secondary School, Bidasar | | 1930 | 1942 | 1950 | - | 334 | 18 | |
| 22 | Shri Raghunath Vidyalaya Ratangarh | | 1914 | 1924 | 1937 | 1956 | 841 | 31 | Building was donated by Ratangarh Charity Trust, Calcutta |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|------|------|------|------|-----|----|--|
| | 23. S D High School, Dudwakhara | 1936 | 1945 | 1956 | - | 340 | 13 | Building was donated by Shrimati Saraswati Devi |
| | 24. Govt Secondary School, Parihara | 1941 | 1942 | 1961 | - | 444 | 18 | Building was erected by Jain Swetambar Terapanthi Sabha, Parihara. |
| | 25. Govt. Secondary School, Sardarshahr | 1895 | 1916 | 1940 | 1951 | 523 | 23 | |
| | 26. Govt. Secondary School, Rajaldesar | - | - | 1954 | - | 509 | 27 | |
| | 27. Govt. Bagla Multipurpose Higher Secondary School, Churu | - | 1905 | 1931 | 1960 | 945 | 42 | Building was donated by the successor of L N. Bagla and B.D. Bagla |
| | 28. Govt. Secondary School, Harpaloo | 1952 | 1956 | 1961 | - | 254 | 14 | |
| | 29. Govt. Secondary School, Hamirwas | 1950 | 1955 | - | 1958 | 201 | 12 | |
| | 30 Govt. Seconnary School, Chhapar | - | - | 1953 | - | 346 | 19 | Building was erected by public contribution |

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Early History

Before the introduction of the European system of medicine, the *Ayurvedic* system was prevalent in and practised by Hindu *Vaidyas*. Besides, the Unani system of medicine was liked by some people and was practised by the Muslim Hakims. There was also a class of quacks and magicians who either prescribed medicines based only on their experience without the study of the Science of Medicine or attempted to drive out diseases by exorcisms and incantations.

Surgery was in the hands of barbers and *jarrahs* (the indigenous surgeons) who performed minor operations. Cataract operations were performed by travelling primitive experts who by their experience satisfactorily handled such cases. Obstetrics and diseases of women were treated by *dais* or mid-wives,

The Allopathic system of medicine was introduced in the district in 1885 when three dispensaries, one each at Churu, Reni (Taranagar) and Sujangarh were opened. Dispensaries at Ratangarh, Sardarshahr and Churu were opened in 1886, at Rajgarh in 1887, at Dungargarh in 1924-25, and at Chhapar and Rajaldesar in 1930. The number of dispensaries increased to 12 in 1951 and to 15 in 1967 excluding seven Primary Health Centres.

Vital Statistics

The registration of births and deaths in towns was started in 1896 but the coverage was incomplete owing to the indifference of the people who did not care to supply information in notifying the same to the authorities. Such information was largely obtained from the hospitals and dispensaries and places of disposal of the dead.

According to the data released by the medical authorities, figures of births and deaths, were available only for Churu for the post 1953 period and are given below

(Per 1000)

| Year | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Variation |
|------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1954 | 4.5 | 2.4 | +2.1 |
| 1955 | 10.3 | 4.8 | +5.5 |
| 1956 | 3.9 | 1.8 | +2.1 |
| 1957 | 5.2 | 1.3 | +3.9 |
| 1958 | 3.9 | 1.0 | +2.9 |
| 1959 | 6.4 | 0.8 | +5.6 |
| 1960 | 3.3 | 0.8 | +2.5 |
| 1961 | 2.5 | 1.6 | +0.9 |
| 1962 | 1.97 | 1.23 | +0.74 |
| 1963 | 4.15 | 1.56 | +2.59 |

It is not possible to draw conclusions from these figures for the district as a whole because this partial data of a town does not represent the conditions in the rural areas. Anyhow, these figures for the last 10 years show that the population of the town increased approximately by 2.88 per 1000 every year. The percentage variation in population for the period 1951-1961, as revealed by Census figures, is 25.85 for the district and 4.20 for Churu.

Causes of Death

According to the statistics released by the Directorate of Medical and Health Services, the causes of mortality from 1957 onwards, are as follows.¹

| Cause | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Small Pox | 20 | 28 | 8 | 17 | 101 | 8 | — | 12 |
| Fever | 209 | 247 | 101 | 236 | 278 | 261 | 396 | 226 |
| Dysentery and Diarrhoea | 30 | 30 | 24 | 37 | 31 | 20 | 25 | 35 |
| Respiratory diseases | 131 | 110 | 26 | 162 | 214 | 185 | 96 | 97 |
| Injuries and Suicides | 17 | 15 | 7 | 19 | 18 | 14 | 18 | 6 |
| Other causes | 157 | 327 | 141 | 318 | 383 | 258 | 261 | 292 |
| Total | 564 | 757 | 307 | 789 | 1,025 | 746 | 796 | 668 |

It is obvious from the above table that fever and respiratory diseases account for a large number of deaths.

1. *Statistical Abstract*, Rajasthan, 1958 onwards

Longevity

According to the 1961 Census, infants aged upto 4 years constituted 16.57 per cent of the population of the District, those between 5 to 14 years 28.06 per cent, persons between 15 to 34 years 30.84 per cent, 35 to 59 years 18.54 per cent and those above 59 formed 5.84 per cent of the total population, leaving 0.15 per cent unaccounted. The high proportion of children, that is 44.63 per cent of the population under 15 years of age is indicative, of the growing population in the district. While no conclusive estimate of longevity can be drawn, the sharp drop in the percentage of those above 35 and the small percentage of those aged over 59 do indicate that expectation of life is not high. This can be attributed to the lack of inadequate nutrition in food consumed by a large section of the poor population. Another reason is the arid nature of the tract and its extreme temperatures which, though keep the region relatively free from common diseases, make people age rapidly.

Common Diseases

The following table shows the diseases and the number of persons who suffered from them and received treatment at the various hospitals and dispensaries during the year 1965-66.

| Diseases | Numbers |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Tuberculosis | 6,624 |
| Syphilis | 122 |
| Typhoid | 4,121 |
| Cholera | 2,116 |
| Dysentery | 5,558 |
| Malaria | 250 |
| Relapsing fever | 822 |
| Rheumatic fever | 58 |
| Guinea-worm | 150 |
| Trachoma | 1,427 |
| Inflammatory diseases of eye | 16,025 |
| Cataract | 283 |
| Glaucoma | 17 |
| Bronchitis | 26,029 |
| Gastro-enteritis and Colitis | 18,399 |
| Other digestive diseases | 37,172 |
| Diseases of Genito Urinary system | 5,941 |
| Diseases of pregnancy and child-birth | 9,118 |
| Diseases of skin | 56,912 |
| Accident, poisoning and violence | 45,191 |

The common diseases in this district are dysentery, anaemia, gastro-enteritis and colitis, fever, tuberculosis, bronchitis and trachoma. The diseases of the respiratory tract are primarily due to the extremes of temperature, the winter being very cold, because the temperature sometimes falls below the freezing point, and the summer being very hot because the sand absorbs heat very quickly. Eye diseases are mostly caused by the sand-dunes and the blowing of high winds for the most part of the year. The unhygienic water-supply in some of the rural areas gives rise to stomach and bowel complaints and causes digestive diseases.

Vaccination

The small-pox vaccination started in 1881. The vaccination work is now being carried on under the supervision of the District Medical and Health Officer. The number of vaccination centres was 12 in 1965-66, out of which five centres, two at Churu and one each at Ratangarh, Sujangarh and Sardarshahr were under Government control and seven centres, one each at Sankhu, Ratangarh, Taranagar, Sardarshahr, Bigga Sandwa and Parihara, were under the control of Panchayat Samitis. An extensive vaccination programme launched under the Small-pox Eradication Campaign has controlled the disease considerably. The following table gives the number of vaccinations done from 1960 to 1965.

| Year | Total | Primary Vaccinations | Re-Vaccinations |
|------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1960 | 50,651 | 23,620 | 27,031 |
| 1961 | 69,802 | 31,114 | 38,688 |
| 1962 | 49,684 | 22,672 | 27,012 |
| 1963 | 5,08,944 | 73,020 | 4,35,924 |
| 1964 | 38,820 | 10,258 | 28,562 |
| 1965 | 1,84,836 | 56,256 | 1,28,580 |

An Anti-T B Campaign was launched through itinerant teams of B C G. Vaccination in 1957. In the first round of B C G Vaccination in 1957 a total of 1,52,043 persons underwent the tuberculin test, 40,032 were vaccinated and 56,992 were re-examined. In the second round in 1960, 34,722 persons were tested, 13,884 vaccinated and 19,337 re-examined. In the third round 17,976 persons were tested, 6,564 vaccinated and 14,608 re-examined in 1964. In 1965, 21,345

were tested, 7,324 vaccinated and 16,476 re-examined in 1965. In 1966 one T B Clinic was established at Ratangarh where 7,156 persons were vaccinated.

The Malaria Eradication Programme in the district was initiated in 1959 and an Anti-Malaria Unit was established at Churu. In the first round 1,23,909 houses and 35,337 cattle sheds were sprayed in 1960, 1,50,233 houses and 26,694 cattle sheds in 1961, and 1,02,069 houses and 47,272 cattle sheds in 1962 and 1,29,836 houses and 56,034 cattle sheds in 1963. In the second round 1,29,182 houses and 56,785 cattle sheds were sprayed in 1963. Since then regular DDT (Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane) spraying rounds have been withdrawn and spraying is done whenever needed. The Surveillance Programme was started from September, 1960 in the district. Under this scheme the surveillance workers pay a regular fortnightly visit from house to house to enquire for the occurrence of any fever cases and to collect the blood slides from the fever cases so detected, for detecting malaria parasites microscopically in the Unit laboratories. The table given below shows the number of blood smears collected and examined during 1963-65.

| Year | Blood smears collected | Examined | No. of positive cases |
|------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1963 | 51,181 | 50,768 | 37 |
| 1964 | 63,296 | 63,296 | 32 |
| 1965 | 73,147 | 72,535 | 15 |

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The Government has set-up 15 Allopathic hospitals and dispensaries in the district. Out of these nine hospitals and three dispensaries are serving in urban areas and one hospital and two dispensaries in the rural areas. Besides there are two private eye hospitals, one at Churu and the other at Ratangarh and two dispensaries in the district. The details of hospitals and other medical institutions functioning in the district are given below.

General Hospital, Ratangarh

General Hospital, Ratangarh was established in 1940. The bed strength of the hospital is 44. It has an Anti-Rabic centre also. The staff consists of four doctors and six compounders.



Seth Ramvilas Bhuvalka Women's Hospital, Ratangarh

Shri Ramvilas Bhuvalka Women's Hospital, Ratangarh

Shri Ramvilas Bhuvalka Women's Hospital, Ratangarh was set-up in 1953. It has 46 beds and separate wards, each for paediatric with six beds, isolation with two beds and maternity with 21 beds. The staff comprises two doctors, two compounders, eight nurses and two midwives.

Sujanmal Bagadia Hospital, Sujangarh

Sujanmal Bagadia Hospital, Sujangarh was started in 1963. The bed strength of the hospital is 50. It has an Anti-Rabic Centre. The staff consists of five doctors, five compounders, one sister, two nurses, two midwives and three technicians.

Seth Thanmal Manot Hospital, Bidasar

Seth Thanmal Manot Hospital, Bidasar was opened in 1946. It has an Anti-Rabic Centre and eight beds. The staff comprises a doctor, two compounders and one midwife.

Government Hospital, Rajgarh

Government Hospital, Rajgarh was started in 1887. It has eight beds, two doctors, two compounders and a nurse on the staff.

Government Hospital, Chhapar

Government Hospital, Chhapar was opened in 1930. It has four-beds and is staffed with a doctor, two compounders and a midwife.

Government Hospital, Taranagar

Government Hospital, Taranagar was established in 1885. It is a four bed hospital with a doctor, two compounders and one midwife on its staff.

Government Hospital, Dungargarh

Government Hospital, Dungargarh was opened in 1930. It has 18 beds. The staff consists of two doctors, two compounders and a *dul.* Facilities of X-Ray and laboratory are also available here.

Bhagwan Das Hospital, Churu

Bhagwan Das Hospital, Churu was started in 1885. It has 26 beds and an Anti-Rabic Centre. The staff consists of five doctors, five compounders, a nurse and a midwife. X-Ray and laboratory facilities are available here.

Government Hospital, Momasar

Government Hospital, Momasar was established in 1959. It has four beds and is staffed with a doctor and a compounder.

Private Non-aided Hospitals

Free Eye Hospital, Ratangarh was established in 1946. It has 50 beds and is staffed with a doctor and three compounders.

Surana Eye Hospital, Churu was opened in 1944 by Shri Trilok Chand Surana and is financed by Shri Abhai Singh Surana. It has 50 beds and two doctors and two compounders on its staff.

Railway Hospitals

There are three hospitals, one each at Ratangarh, Churu and Rajgarh, maintained by the Northern Railway for catering to the needs of railway employees in the district.

Primary Health Centres

Primary Health Centres are opened at places recommended by Panchayat Samitis and work in collaboration with them. Their administrative control however, rests with the District Medical and Health Officer concerned.

The main features of a Primary Health Centre are not as much the treatment of various diseases and their prevention as the popularisation of family planning and rendering mobile medical services. Each centre is provided with a medical van for administering mobile medical services both preventive and curative in the area of the project. Vaccinators and other sanitary staff of the Panchayat Samiti concerned are placed at the disposal of the Medical Officers of the centre.

There are seven Primary Health Centres in the district, the details of which are as follows:

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, BIGGA—It was established in 1961 and has a bed strength of six. The staff consists of a doctor, a compounder and four nurses, one lady health visitor and one sanitary inspector.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, SANDWA—It was opened in 1963-64. It has a bed strength of six and is staffed with a doctor, two compounders, three *dais*, a midwife, a health inspector and one lady health visitor.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, SARDARSHAHR—It was established in 1958. It has a bed strength of 12 (an Anti-Rabic Centre is also attached to it). The staff consists of two doctors, two compounders, two nurses and three *dais*. X-Ray and Laboratory facility also exist.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, SANKHO—It was started in 1963-64. It has a bed strength of six. The staff consists of one doctor, a compounder, three *dais*, a sanitary inspector and a family planning educator.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, PARIHARA—It was opened in 1962. It has a bed strength of six and has a doctor, a compounder, a midwife, three *dais*, a sanitary inspector and three auxiliary health workers.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, SAHWA—It was established in 1964. It has a bed strength of six. The staff consists of a compounder, a sanitary inspector, three auxiliary health workers, eleven health workers, two *dais* and a family planning extension educator.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, RATANNAGAR—It was started in 1966 with a bed strength of six. The staff consists of a doctor, a compounder, a *dai*, three midwives and one sanitary inspector.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

The details of maternity and child welfare centres in the district are as follows:

| Name | Bed strength |
|---|--------------|
| M C W C Sujangarh | 6 |
| M C W C Bidasar | 6 |
| M C W C Rajaldesar | 6 |
| B D Maternity Home, Rajgarh | 50 (Private) |
| S R B Women's Hospital, (Maternity Ward) Ratangarh | 21 |

Besides, family planning clinics have been set-up in the Government hospitals at Churu, Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Sardarshahr and Rajgarh in the urban area and in Primary Health Centres at Sankho, Sandwa, Parihara, Bigga, Ratannagar, Sehwa and Sardarshahr in the rural area.

Medical Department

All medical activities in the district are controlled by the District Medical and Health Officer with his headquarters at Ratangarh. He supervises and controls all hospitals, dispensaries and primary health centres. The following table shows the number of patients, both indoor and outdoor, treated at these institutions from 1957 to 1964

| Year | Indoor Patients | Outdoor Patients |
|------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1957 | 3,948 | 2,09,169 |
| 1958 | 4,268 | 2,01,124 |
| 1959 | 5,243 | 2,36,194 |
| 1960 | 5,416 | 2,48,995 |
| 1961 | 5,619 | 2,68,395 |
| 1962 | 5,381 | 2,29,280 |
| 1963 | 5,803 | 2,62,058 |
| 1964 | 6,125 | 2,86,464 |

Medical Personnel

According to the 1951 Census there were 338 persons (219 males and 119 females) employed in the medical and other health services of the district. Out of these, 48 (47 males and 1 female) were doctors, 55 *Vaidyas* (52 males and 3 females), 100 midwives, two nurses and 11 compounders (10 males and one female), and 122 other workers (110 males and 12 females) were rendering medical services as employees in dispensaries. According to the Census of 1961 the number of personnel engaged in the medical and health services was as follows

| | Total | Males | Females |
|--|-------|-------|---------|
| 1 Physicians and Surgeons (Allopathic) | 52 | 49 | 3 |
| 2. Physicians (<i>Ayurvedic</i>) | 205 | 205 | — |
| 3 Physicians (Homeopathic) | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| 4 Physicians (Others) | 9 | 9 | — |
| 5 Dentists | 5 | 5 | — |
| 6 Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 Nurses | 30 | 7 | 23 |
| 8 Midwives and Health Visitors | 21 | 2 | 19 |
| 9 Nursing Attendants and related workers | 51 | 30 | 21 |
| 10. Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Technicians | 128 | 128 | — |
| 11. Other Medical and Health Technicians | 44 | 43 | 1 |
| 12 Vaccinators | 9 | 9 | — |
| 13 Optometrist and Opticians | 1 | 1 | — |

Their category-wise distribution between the urban and rural areas is as under

| | | Urban | | | Rural | | |
|-----|--|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| | | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| 1 | Physicians and Surgeons (Allopathic) | 46 | 43 | 3 | 6 | 6 | - |
| 2. | Physicians (Ayurvedic) | 142 | 142 | - | 63 | 63 | - |
| 3. | Physicians (Homeopathic) | 13 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 4. | Physicians (others) | 8 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| 5 | Dentists | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| 6 | Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 7. | Nurses | 27 | 7 | 20 | 3 | - | 3 |
| 8. | Midwives and Health Visitors | 15 | 2 | 13 | 6 | - | 6 |
| 9 | Nursing Attendants and Related Workers | 29 | 10 | 19 | 22 | 20 | 2 |
| 10 | Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Technicians | 120 | 120 | - | 8 | 8 | - |
| 11. | Other Medical and Health Technicians | 36 | 36 | - | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 12. | Vaccinators | 9 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| 13 | Optometrist and Opticians | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |

The ratio of doctors to total population in 1961 was 1 to 2,280 for the district (1 to 963 in the urban area and 1 to 6 177 in the rural area) as against 1,218 for the Rajasthan State (571 in the urban area and 5,055 in the rural area).

Indigenous systems of Medicines

The Ayurvedic system, being rooted in the culture and climate of the country, has been in vogue in the district. The introduction of the Allopathic system has out-dated it but it is still widely believed to

be temperamentally better suited to the people. This system has flourished under the care of wealthy classes who donated for the establishment of various *Aushdhalayas* in the district. The State patronage is responsible for the opening of a number of more such institutions. The first Ayurvedic dispensary was started in 1930-31 at Phaphana by the State. Their number increased to 23 in 1955-57 and 45 in 1965-66. Besides, there are nine non-Government Ayurvedic dispensaries serving in the district. Details are given in Appendix II.

The work of the Ayurvedic dispensaries is supervised by the Ayurvedic Inspector stationed at Churu.

Sanitation

In the rural areas where water is scarce, the climate is very dry and the average number of houses in villages small, sanitary conditions are better than in the towns which are thickly populated. In recent years, under the Community Development Programme, steps have been taken to improve sanitation by employing sanitary inspectors, watermen and sweepers. Construction of sanitary latrines, drains, smokeless *chulahs*, etc. have also been undertaken.

The maintenance of proper sanitary conditions in the urban areas is the primary function of municipalities. The district has municipal boards at Churu, Ratangarh, Rajgarh, Sujangarh, Sardarshahr, Ratannagar, Taranagar, Dungargarh, Chhapar and Bidasar. These municipal boards employ sanitary staff like jamadars, bhistis and sweepers who look after sanitary conditions within their respective jurisdictions. Details are given in Chapter XIV on Local Self-Government.

Water-Supply

Protracted piped water-supply is available at Churu, Sadulpur, Taranagar, Sardarshahr, Sujangarh, Parihara, Momasar and Ratangarh where it is chlorinated and filtered. Elsewhere, steps have been taken to improve water-supply by disinfecting wells and in some cases, by covering them. However, in a very large number of villages there is shortage of protracted water-supply.

APPENDIX I

Details of Dispensaries functioning in Churu district

| S No | Name and Location of dispensary | Staff | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | Doctors | Compou- nders | Nurses or Dais | Others |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Government Dispensaries | | | | | |
| 1 | Government Dispensary, Rajaldesar | 1 | 2 | 1 | - |
| 2 | Police Line Dispensary, Churu | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 3. | T B Clinic, Ratangarh | 1 | - | - | 3 Health Visitors 5 B C G, Technicians |
| 4. | Government Dispensary Bhainsli | - | 2 | 1 | - |
| 5 | Government Dispensary, Sidmukh | - | 1 | - | - |
| Private Non-Aided Dispensaries | | | | | |
| 6 | Marwari Sahayak Samiti Dispensary, Ratangarh | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| 7 | Geonka Charitable Dispensary, Churu | 1 | 2 | - | - |

APPENDIX II

**Location and number of patients treated in Government Ayurvedic
Dispensaries in 1965-66**

| S No | Location | Patients treated |
|------|------------|------------------|
| 1 | Bigga | 8,934 |
| 2 | Bhukhredi | 5,374 |
| 3 | Parihara | 18,519 |
| 4. | Salu | 7,645 |
| 5. | Dhirbas | 14,066 |
| 6. | Cherbas | 16,432 |
| 7. | Dhanaoo | 5,746 |
| 8 | Ghaghru | 12,066 |
| 9 | Bhasira | 6,500 |
| 10. | Kalawas | 13,905 |
| 11. | Salasar | 14,740 |
| 12. | Khandwa | 4,296 |
| 13. | Rajasar | 6,579 |
| 14. | Taranagar | 24,452 |
| 15. | Gusaisa | 4,803 |
| 16. | Bai | 15,626 |
| 17. | Bandnaoo | 5,554 |
| 18 | Khejra | 3,607 |
| 19. | Sahwa | 12,151 |
| 20. | Ratoosar | 10,358 |
| 21. | Baghel | 11,587 |
| 22. | Newal | 5,759 |
| 23. | Dariba | 8,449 |
| 24. | Hamirwas | 6,002 |
| 25. | Malsar | 11,070 |
| 26. | Dadrewa | 10,931 |
| 27. | Riri | 14,072 |
| 28. | Bhagheri | 12,078 |
| 29. | Ladhasar | 8,063 |
| 30. | Poolasar | 5,970 |
| 31. | Buchawas | 6,240 |
| 32 | Ramsar Tal | 5,366 |
| 33. | Satra | 7,160 |
| 34. | Upni | 6,054 |
| 35. | Purerasar | 5,234 |

| S No | Location | Patients treated |
|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 36 | Gopalpura | 5,234 |
| 37 | Chandweri | 9,420 |
| 38 | Redi Bhurabas | 7,835 |
| 39 | Bhinasar | 13,624 |
| 40 | Bana | 8,029 |
| 41 | Dhani Panchera | 4,142 |
| 42 | Sarsar | 1,805 |
| 43 | Bapeoo | 618 |
| 44 | Lachharsar | 453 |
| 45 | Ramsisar | Started on 31.3.1966 |

Non-Government Ayurvedic Dispensaries in Churu district

| S No | Name of Ayurvedic Dispensary | Location | No of patients treated in 1965-66 |
|------|---|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Kanhaya Bangla Shiv Aushdhalaya | Churu | 12,514 |
| 2 | Shri Nathmalji Sethu Charitable Aushdhalaya | Sardarshahr | 78,320 |
| 3 | Shri Hanuman Aushdhalaya | Ratangarh | 24,986 |
| 4 | Shri Mohta Charitable Aushdhalaya | Rajgarh | 58,771 |
| 5 | Ratangarh Sahayak Samiti Charitable Aushdhalaya | Ratannagar | 24,156 |
| 6 | Marwari Sahayak Samiti Charitable Aushdhalaya | Ratangarh | 59,245 |
| 7 | Yati Shri Riddhikaran Ayurvedic Aushdhalaya | Churu | 45,000 |
| 8 | Shri Sarvajan Hiteshi Charitable Aushdhalaya | Rajgarh | 40,000 |
| 9 | Shri Ganpati Ayurvedic Charitable Dispensary | Churu | 20,149 |

APPENDIX III

Number of patients treated in Government Hospitals and
Dispensaries in 1965-66

| Hospitals | Number |
|--|--------|
| 1 S.M.J Hospital, Ratangarh | N A |
| 2 S R B Women's Hospital, Ratangarh | N A |
| 3 B D Hospital, Churu | 43,723 |
| 4 S B Hospital, Sujangarh | 15,984 |
| 5 S T M Hospital, Bidasar | 22,265 |
| 6 Government Hospital, Rajgarh | 32,045 |
| 7 Government Hospital, Chhapar | 18,364 |
| 8 Government Hospital, Taranagar | 16,138 |
| 9 Government Hospital, Dungargarh | 59,140 |
| 10 Government Hospital, Momasar | 9,024 |
| Dispensaries | |
| 1 Government Dispensary, Rajaldesar | 47,706 |
| 2 Police Line Dispensary, Churu | N A |
| 3 T B. Clinic, Ratangarh | N.A |
| 4 Government Dispensary, Bhainsli | 13,275 |
| 5. Government Dispensary, Sidmukh | 16,891 |
| Primary Health Centres | |
| 1 P.H.C Sardarshahr | 16,277 |
| 2 P H.C. Bigga | 5,616 |
| 3 P H C Sankhoo | 5,947 |
| 4 P H C Parihara | 24,163 |
| 5 P.H C Sandwa | 6,472 |
| 6 P H C Sahwa | 9,175 |
| 7. P H C. Ratannagar | 28,529 |
| Railway Hospitals | |
| 1. Railway Hospital, Rajgarh | N A. |
| 2 Railway Hospital, Ratangarh | 16,115 |
| 3. Railway Hospital, Churu | 13,064 |
| Private Hospitals and Dispensaries | |
| 1 Free Eye Hospital, Ratangarh | 6,821 |
| 2. Surana Eye Hospital, Churu | 3,206 |
| 3 Marwari Sahayak Samiti Dispensary, Ratangarh | 81,570 |
| 4 Goenka Charitable Dispensary, Churu | 19,654 |

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour Welfare

The welfare of the working class people is becoming a major concern of the State but there still being no large industry in this district except twelve small establishments registered under the Indian Factories Act, 1948 employing 63 persons per day, the labour welfare activities have hardly any scope in this district. The provisions of the various labour laws¹ relating to working conditions, wages, provident fund, insurance, accident, sickness and maternity benefits, etc. which are confined to workers of the registered factories and establishments are applicable to this district also as a part of State labour welfare programme.

Organisational set-up

There is no separate labour welfare officer for the district but it falls within the jurisdiction of the Regional Assistant Labour Commissioner, Bikaner, who is responsible for the enforcement of labour laws and the supervision of all labour activities in the Bikaner Division comprising the districts of Bikaner, Churu and Ganganagar.

The number of workers being meagre there is no labour welfare centre in the district.

Prohibition

Churu is not a dry district. Hence, there is no restriction on the consumption of liquor except on drinking in public. The possession and use of *Ganja* and *Chharas* is strictly prohibited while opium is

1 The provisions of the following laws are enforced in the district :

- 1 Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1947
- 2 Indian Factories Act, 1948
- 3 Minimum Wages Act, 1948
- 4 Payment of Wages Act, 1936
- 5 Employment of Children's Act, 1930
- 6 Employces' Provident Fund Act, 1952
- 7 Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948
- 8 Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923
- 9 Maternity Benefit Act, 1942
- 10 Charitable Endowment Act, 1930

supplied to the addicts through ration cards on medical grounds subject to a quarterly reduction in their quota. This has dwindled the consumption of opium but, at the same time, has resulted in the free use of poppy heads and its sale in black-market. *Bhang* is the only intoxicant that is freely consumed. There are seven licensed shops with 31 sub-shops selling country-liquor, besides one shop for foreign liquor, four for wholesale and 11 for retail sale of poppy heads.

The following table shows the extent of consumption of intoxicants in the district from 1961-62 to 1965-66¹

| Year | Country spirit (Litres) | Opium(Kg.) | Lanced Poppy heads (Kg.) | Bhang(Kg.) | Imported spiritwine (Litres) | Imported beer(Litres) | Indian made spirits (Litres) | Indian made beer (Litres) |
|---------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1961-62 | 45,801 | 10 | — | 1,078 | — | — | — | — |
| 1962-63 | 80,781 | 6 | — | 888 | — | — | — | — |
| 1963-64 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1964-65 | 12,1,713 | 5 | — | 1,003 | — | — | — | — |
| 1965-66 | 13,6,064 | 5 | 39,641 | 1,198 | 5 | — | 1,106 | 533 |

It transpires from the above table that the consumption of liquor and *bhang* has been constantly increasing in the district. There is no distillery in the district. With the demand for drinks going up illicit distillation has started on a large scale. The number of illicit distillation cases detected during the period 1962-63 to 1966-67 is given below.

| Year | No of illicit distillation cases |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| 1962-63 | 112 |
| 1963-64 | 45 |
| 1964-65 | 20 |
| 1965-66 | 56 |
| 1966-67 | 70 |

1. *Statistical Abstracts, Rajasthan, for various years*

Welfare of Backward Classes

According to the 1961 Census, the total population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the district was 1,19,144 (61,632 males and 57,512 females) and 3,262 (1,755 males and 1507 females) respectively. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes formed 18.15 and 0.5 per cent of the population of the district.

According to the Census of 1961, the Scheduled Tribes consist predominantly of Mina and Dabana communities. Out of their total population of 3,262, Minas were 1,754, Damor-Damaira 1,205, Bhils four and Seharia one and unclassified 297. Among the Scheduled Castes, Chamars, Meghwals and Thoris formed 38.7, 20.7 and 17.2 per cent respectively of the total Scheduled Castes population. Of the total number of Scheduled Castes, Chamars were 46,120, Meghwals 24,687, Thoris or Nayaks 20,521, Dhankia 5,219, Bhangi 5,116, Balai 2,509, Sansi 2,104, Khatik 1,808, Bawaria 1,632, Doms 1,395, Kamad 455, Gavaria 425, Garo or Garura 375, Kanjar 360, Jingar 328, Kalbelia 168, Santia 135, Dheda 109, Bhand 103, Nut 82, Valmiki 76, Rawal 61, Badi 39, Tirgar 38, Chura 34, Sargara 17, Koli 12, Kooch Band eight, Dabgar two and Godhi one. The remaining 5,205 were unclassified.

Persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are mainly engaged in agriculture, cattle-breeding, working as labourers and carrying on the occupation of tanning of hides and skins.

There is no separate office of the Social Welfare Department for the district and it falls within the jurisdiction of the Social Welfare Officer, Bikaner. To ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the Backward Classes the Social Welfare Department launched an uplift programme in the district and has taken various measures, details of which are given below.

Hostels and Boarding Houses

To provide educational facilities to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Scheduled Tribes the Social Welfare Department set-up a hostel in 1962 at Churu. At present it has accommodation for 55 boys and all the expenses for boarding, lodging, books and clothes, etc. are borne by the Government. During the year 1962-63 the State spent Rs. 85,780 for the benefit of 213 students of this hostel.

In addition, the Government is providing funds to voluntary social organisations to run two hostels, one at Rajgarh and the other

supplied to the addicts through ration cards on medical grounds subject to a quarterly reduction in their quota. This has dwindled the consumption of opium but, at the same time, has resulted in the free use of poppy heads and its sale in black-market. *Bhang* is the only intoxicant that is freely consumed. There are seven licensed shops with 31 sub-shops selling country-liquor, besides one shop for foreign liquor, four for wholesale and 11 for retail sale of poppy heads.

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In addition, the Government is providing funds to voluntary social organisations to run two hostels, one at Rajgarh and the other

at Sardarshahr These hostels are managed by Vidyarthi Ashram Rajgarh and Bapa Seva Sadan, Sardarshahr respectively Each has the capacity of accommodating 25 and 50 boys respectively The grant-in aid is given to these hostels by the State at the rate of Rs 40 to Rs. 45 per inmate on the basis of monthly average attendance. During the period 1961-62 to 1965-66, 385 students availed of the facilities at these hostels.

Besides an annual amount of Rs 25,000 is granted to the Basic Agriculture School run by the Bapa Seva Sadan, Sardarshahr, where the Scheduled Castes boys are admitted on preferential basis for basic education In 1967, their number was 52 as against the total number of 214 students in this school

Industrial and production centres

In order to improve the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, five training-cum-production centres were started by the State where every apprentice gets a stipend of Rs 15 per month during training period and financial assistance not exceeding Rs 200 is provided to each of them on the completion of their training for the purchase of essential books or equipment to enable them to earn their livelihood The details of these centres are as follows

| Name of the centre | No of apprentices |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 Tailoring Training Centre, Ratangarh | 12 |
| 2 Shoe-making centre, Churu | 11 |
| 3 Carpentry Training Centre, Sujangarh | 15 |
| 4 Carpentry Training Centre, Sardarshahr | 10 |
| 5 Tailoring Training Centre, Rajaldesar | 12 |

Mahila Sanskar Kendra (Social Education Centre)

To create a sense of responsibility, mutual co-operation, and generally to promote social uplift, two full time and three part time social education centres were started in the district These centres provide for instructions in tailoring, embroidery and handicrafts to the *harijan* ladies and, side by side, the lady welfare worker also teaches them reading and writing The impact of these centres is marked by the beginning of the diffusion of traits of higher culture among *harijans* During the years 1961-62 to 1965-66, sixty women were benefited at the cost of Rs. 2,825 spent by the State.

Other Measures

The Government of Rajasthan has reserved $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent vacancies in all State services for the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Social Welfare Department provides funds to the Panchayat Samitis for granting subsidy to the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for irrigation, purchase of agricultural implements, construction of drinking water wells and houses and improving their living conditions. During the period 1961-66 the Social Welfare Department provided a total sum of Rs. 2,83,100 to the Panchayat Samitis in the district. Out of this amount Rs. 1,61,600 were utilised for the construction of drinking water wells, Rs. 57,750 for rehabilitation, Rs. 46,400 for scholarships, Rs. 1,48,400 for starting cottage industries and Rs. 2,560 for purchasing agricultural implements.

The Social Welfare Department provides funds to the Municipalities for improving the living and working conditions of the staff employed as scavengers. In the year 1965-66, the Social Welfare Department provided Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 18,000 to the Municipalities of Bidasar and Rajgarh respectively for the construction of a drinking well for *harijans* in Bidasar and 24 houses for them in Rajgarh.

In addition to this, the Revenue Department allotted 6,183 and 938 hectares of land for cultivation to 1,425 and 210 members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

The aim of all Governmental schemes is to bring the backward sections of society on par with other members of the society. This is being achieved by providing free education, absorbing qualified candidates into services, providing living accommodation and other amenities of life, developing cottage industries and crafts and rehabilitating landless members of Scheduled Castes. The impact of all such measures is perceptible in the awakening among these people who are becoming conscious of their depressed status. Under the influence of new ideas, the life of these people has been quickened, and caste restrictions and untouchability are loosening their hold and the higher communities have become increasingly sympathetic to them. Thus, a process for the amelioration of the depressed and backward classes has been set in motion in the district. These classes are now provided the educational and social amenities as the higher classes. In matters of admissions and scholarships, they are accorded even preferential treatment.

Old-Age pension

The old-age pension scheme, which came into effect in 1965, aims at providing social security for men and women of 65 years or over who have no income or source of their own and are totally incapacitated to earn or do not earn by custom. The Collector, Churu is in administrative charge of the scheme. 94 persons were benefitted under this scheme in the district till 1967-68.

Pension for invalids

The scheme which aims at providing social security to the physically handicapped and totally incapacitated to earn, was introduced in the district in 1966. The Collector, Churu is in administrative charge of the scheme. Three persons in 1966 and four persons in 1967 were benefitted.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation in Lok Sabha

In the first General Elections (1952) the Churu District (excluding the Churu, Rajgarh and Taranagar Tahsils), Bikaner District, the Nagaur Tahsil (excluding Nagaur, Mundawa and Khatu Kalan Police Stations) and the Ladnu and Bardwa Police Stations of the Deedwana Tahsil of the Nagaur District formed a single Parliamentary Constituency. In a total electorate (3,77,481), 1,87,557 valid votes were cast, the polling percentage being 48.67. Of the four contestants, an independent won the seat securing 62.9 per cent (1,17,926) votes. Of the remaining, one was a Congress candidate, who secured 54,227 votes, the other a Socialist candidate securing 9,014 votes and the third belonged to Kisan Janta Samyukta Party securing 6,390 votes.¹

The Churu, Rajgarh and Taranagar tahsils were bracketed with the parts of other districts viz., Ganganagar, Jhunjhunun, Sikar and Jaipur to form a double-member constituency called Ganganagar-Jhunjhunun constituency. For these two seats, ten candidates contested. In an electorate of 7,53,860, the number of valid votes polled was 6,62,222.² Both the seats were captured by the Congress candidates.

In the Second General Elections (1957) the Churu district was represented in the double member constituency (one member for general seat and the other for Scheduled Castes seat), which comprised Churu district (excluding Sujangarh Tahsil and eleven villages), Bikaner and Ganganagar Districts. The number of the electorate was 8,05,673 and each voter was to cast two votes. The number of valid votes polled was 6,85,550 (42.5 per cent). Of six contestants an Independent candidate with 2,28,267 votes (33.3 per cent) and a Congress candidate with 1,41,933 votes (20.6 per cent) were declared elected.

1 *Report on the First General Elections in India, 1951-52, Vol. II (Statistical)* pp. 112-113.

2 *ibid.*, pp. 112-113.

The area of Sujangarh tahsil (excluding a few villages)¹ was bracketed with the Nagaur district to form a parliamentary constituency, having an electorate of 4,45,844 persons. The number of valid votes polled was 2,19,833 (49.3 per cent). Of the two contestants, the Congress candidate was declared successful who secured 1,42,458 votes (64.80 per cent).

In the Third General Elections (1962), the tahsils of the district were divided into three groups and thus their areas were grouped to form the Bikaner, Ganganagar and Nagaur constituencies. But the majority of tahsils of the district were grouped with the Bikaner constituency which comprised eight assembly constituencies, four of this district (viz., Churu, Sardarshahr, Dungargarh and Ratangarh) and four of the Bikaner district. In a total electorate of 4,68,948, the valid votes were 2,51,596 (53.52 per cent). Of the three contestants for the seat, an Independent candidate with 1,76,590 votes won the seat defeating another Independent and a Communist candidate.

The area comprising the Sadulpur Legislative Assembly Constituency was bracketed with the Ganganagar Parliamentary Constituency consisting of eight assembly constituencies. The total electorate in the constituency was 5,74,159 and the total valid votes cast were 3,37,914 (58.85 per cent). Of the six contesting candidates, the Congress candidate with 1,34,133 (39.69 per cent) votes won the election defeating one candidate of Swatantra Party, one candidate of the Socialist Party and three Independent candidates.

The area of the Sujangarh assembly was bracketed with the parliamentary constituency of Nagaur, comprising eight assembly seats. For this general seat, the electorate consisted of 5,30,673 persons. Of the contesting candidates, the Congress candidate was declared elected, securing 1,36,166 votes (47.29 per cent), defeating three Independent candidates.

In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the area of the district was divided in such a way that it formed part of the three parliamentary constituencies viz., Bikaner, Jhunjhunun and Sikar.

The four tahsils of the district—Chhapar, Dungargarh, Sardarshahr and Churu—formed part of the Bikaner Constituency. The

¹ Randhisar Dhatri, Jogaliya, Jaisar, Dhedru Godaran, Dhedru Bhan Bhuwan, Bidasar, Darilela, Benatha, Umji, Benatha Jogaliya and Upadhiya

total number of votes was 5,50,114, out of which 3,03,703 valid votes were polled. Of the nine contestants, an Independent candidate won the seat securing 2,15,636 votes. All the remaining contestants were also Independents whose securities were forfeited.

The Sadulpur assembly constituency formed part of the Jhunjhunun Parliamentary Constituency. Out of the total votes (5,49,787) the valid votes were 3,55,248. Of the ten contesting candidates (seven Independent candidates, one Congress, one Swatantra and one Communist), the Swatantra party candidate secured 1,50,596 votes and was declared elected.

The Sujangarh assembly constituency was bracketed with the Sikar Parliamentary Constituency. The electorate consisted of 6,06,930 voters of which 3, 4,648 valid votes were polled. Of the nine contestants, six Independents, one Congress, one Jan Sangh, one Communist (M), the Jan Sangh candidate with 1,30,945 votes came out successful.

Legislative Assembly

For the first General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan, this district was divided into four constituencies viz, Churu, Sardarshahr, Ratangarh and Sujangarh, returning five legislators—including one reserved for Scheduled Castes.

The Churu constituency was a double-member constituency returning two legislators—one for Scheduled Castes seat and the other for general seat. This Constituency comprised the Churu, Rajgarh and Taranagar tahsils. The total voting population was 1,03,284 but 85,426 or 82.71 per cent votes were cast. Both the seats were annexed by Congress candidates, defeating 11 contestants of various parties (1 Jan Sangh, 1 Socialist, 1 Ram Rajya Parishad, 2 Krishikar Lok Party and 6 Independents).

The Sardarshahr Constituents consisted of the Sardarshahr tahsil and some villages of the Dungargarh tahsil. The electorate consisted of 47,609 voters. Of the six contestants, the Congress candidate who secured 41.7 per cent of the total votes polled, was declared elected.

The Ratangarh constituency, comprising the Ratangarh Tahsil and some villages of the Dungargarh Tahsil, had an electorate of 51,738 voters. Of the four contestants, an Independent candidate was declared elected having secured 52.2 per cent of the total votes.

The Sujangarh Constituency, consisting of the tahsil of the same name, had a total of 50,161 voters. Of the four contestants, an Independent candidate with 12,552 votes or 45.5 per cent of the total votes polled was declared elected.

In these Assembly Elections, 27 candidates contested the five seats. Independents (14) formed the largest group of candidates, followed by the Congress (5), Krishikar Lok Party (3), Jan Sangh (2), Socialists (2), and Ram Rajya Parishad (1). Out of the 5 seats, three were secured by the Congress and two by Independent candidates.

BYE-ELECTIONS, 1955

A bye-Election was held on the 11th November, 1955 due to a vacancy caused by the death of an Independent legislator in Ratangarh constituency. The electorate this time returned a Congress candidate as their representative in preference to the Independent candidate elected in the General Elections 1951-52. The percentage of votes secured by the elected candidate was 50.3. Other details of bye-election are given below:

| Constituency and Date | Reasons for bye-elections | Party | Preference General Election | Percentage bye-election |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ratangarh 11th November, 1955 | Death | Independent | 52.2 | — |
| | | Congress | 35.0 | 50.3 |
| | | Socialist | 9.0 | — |
| | | Independent | 3.8 | — |
| | | Jan Sangh | — | 36.5 |
| | | Praja Socialist Party | — | 13.2 |

For the Second General Elections to the Legislative Assembly, Rajasthan, this district returned six legislators (five for General seats and one for Scheduled Caste seat) from the five constituencies viz., Churu (2-General seat 1 and Scheduled Caste seat 1), Sardarshahr (1), Dungargarh (1), Ratangarh (1), and Sujangarh (1).

The Churu Constituency was a double-member constituency and had a total electorate of 90,938. Of the seven contesting candidates

(four Independents, two Congress and one Jan Sangh), one Independent candidate having secured 22.7 per cent votes, and the other Congress candidate (Scheduled Caste) securing 17.5 per cent votes were declared elected.

The Sardarshahr Constituency, comprising the Faranagar Tahsil, Sardarshahr Town and some villages of the Sardarshahr Tahsil, had an electorate of 58,576. Of the four contestants (3 Independent and 1 Congress), the Congress candidate was declared elected securing 31.1 per cent of the total votes.

The Dungargarh Constituency consisted of the tahsil of the same name, and some of the villages of the Sardarshahr Tahsil, with a total electorate of 48,365. Out of the three contestants for the seat (2 Independent, one Congress), the Congress candidate with 51.8 per cent of the total votes was elected.

The Ratangarh Constituency consisted of the whole Ratangarh Tahsil and some villages of the Sujangarh Tahsil. Of the total electorate (4,320), the percentage of polling was 50.8. Of the seven contestants (6 Independent and one Congress) an Independent candidate defeated all the other candidates and secured 24.8 per cent of the total votes polled.

The Sujangarh Constituency consisted of some villages of the tahsil of the same name. Out of the total electorate (50,719) only 21,234 (41.9 per cent) voters cast their votes. Of the five contestants (three Independents, one Congress and one Jan Sangh), the seat was won by an Independent candidate (woman), who secured 7,049 or 33.2 per cent of the total votes polled.

In all, there were 26 contestants for five General seats and one Scheduled Caste seat. The Independent candidates (18) formed the largest group, followed by Congress (6) and Jan Sangh (2). The number of seats won by the Independent candidates was three and that by the Congress three including one Scheduled Caste seat.

For the Third General Elections to the Rajasthan Assembly also the district in all had six seats—one for scheduled Caste and five General seats for Sadulpur (Scheduled Caste), Churu, Sardarshahr, Dungargarh, Ratangarh and Sujangarh Constituencies.

In the Sadulpur Constituency comprising the area of the Rajgarh Tahsil excluding Gaglwa village, the electorate consisted of 60,495 voters of whom 42.76 per cent cast their votes. It was a Scheduled Caste seat. The total number of contestants was three, one from Congress, the other from C P I and the third an Independent. The seat was won by the Congress candidate, who secured 50.13 per cent of the votes.

The Churu Constituency comprised the area of the Churu Tahsil. Of the total number of voters (52,854), 31,509 cast their votes. Out of the seven contestants, three were Independents, one Congress, one C P I, one P S P and one Jan Sangh. The seat was won by an Independent candidate who secured 13,113 or 44.62 per cent of votes.

In the Sardarshahr Constituency, the area of the Taranagar tahsil, alongwith the Sardarshahr town and some villages of the Sardarshahr tahsil were grouped together. Out of 61,743 voters 40,177 cast their votes. The seat was won by a Congress candidate who secured 15,144 votes and defeated his four rivals (three Independents and one C P I).

The Dungargarh Constituency consisted of the area of the tahsil of the same name alongwith the Sardarshahr tahsil (excluding Sardarshahr town and some villages). The percentage of polling was 62.70. This seat was also won by a Congress candidate who defeated three Independents and one C P I candidate.

The Ratangarh Constituency was formed out of the area of the Ratangarh tahsil alongwith some villages of Sujangarh tahsil. It had 61,537 electorate and 62.26 per cent cast their votes. This seat went to an Independent candidate defeating one Congress and two Independent contestants.

The Sujangarh Constituency was formed out of the area of the Sujangarh tahsil (excluding some villages). Of the total votes (61,821) 55.70 per cent votes were polled. Of the five contestants three were Independent, one from the Congress and one from Jan Sangh. The candidate of the Congress getting 11,756 or 35.81 per cent votes was declared elected.

Thus, in all there were 29 candidates who contested for five General seats and one Scheduled Caste seat of the district. Out of them the largest group was that of Independents (16), followed by Congress (6), Communist Party of India (4), Jan Sangh (2) and Praja

Socialist Party (1). Of the total seats, Congress won 4 and Independent candidates 2

In the Fourth General Election for the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, six assembly constituencies were carved out of the area of the district, viz., Chhapar (Scheduled Caste), Sujangarh, Dungargarh, Sardarshahr, Churu and Sadulpur

The Chhapar Constituency, which was reserved for a Scheduled Caste candidate, included Chhapar, Jili and Tendesar Revenue Circles and *Patwar* Circles, Balera and Gopalpura in Sujangarh revenue circle (in Sujangarh tahsil); and Rajaldesar revenue circle and *Patwar* circles Nosariya, Malusar and Golsar in Ratangarh revenue circle in Ratangarh Tahsil. The total electorate was 69,727. The number of valid votes polled for the seat was 36,308 (or 52.4 per cent). The seat was contested by four candidates one each from the Congress, Jan Sangh and Praja Socialist Party and one an Independent. It was won by the Independent candidate, who secured 16,584 or 45.7 per cent votes.

The Sujangarh Constituency¹ constituted the Sujangarh revenue circle (excluding *Patwar* circles Babra and Gopalpura) and Salasar revenue circle in Sujangarh tahsil, and Parihara revenue circle and Ratangarh revenue circle (excluding *Patwar* circle Nosariya, Molasar and Golsar) in Ratangarh tahsil. Out of the total electorate (76,881) 43,911 valid votes (57.2 per cent) were polled. There were thirteen candidates contesting the seat. Out of them 11 were Independent candidates, one Congress candidate and one Jan Sangh candidate. The Jan Sangh candidate was declared elected securing 15,542 or 35.4 per cent votes.

The Dungargarh Constituency comprised the area of Dungargarh tahsil and Sardarshahr tahsil (excluding Sardarshahr and Phoga Bharthari revenue circles). The total electorate was 70,470 and the valid votes polled 43,879 or 62.2 per cent. Out of the four contestants for the seat, one was put up by the Congress, the other by the Communist Party of India and the remaining 2 were Independent candidates. The seat was secured by an Independent candidate, with 23,523 votes or 53.6 per cent of the votes to his credit.

1 *Rajasthan Gazette Extraordinary*, Dated 25th April, 1966 part 5 (D), p. 6

The Sardarshahr Constituency was demarcated as the area¹ circumscribing Taranagar Tahsil (excluding Satyun revenue circle), and Sardarshahr and Phoga Bharthari revenue circles in Sardarshahr Tahsil. The electorate consisted of 70 899 voters,² and the total valid votes polled in the constituency were 47,461 or 66.9 per cent. There were two contestants for the seat, one a Congress candidate and the other an Independent who won the seat by securing 29,557 or 62.3 per cent votes.

The Churu Constituency comprised the area covering Churu Tahsil and Satyun revenue circle in Taranagar tahsil.³ The electorate consisted of 67,686 voters and the total valid votes polled were 39,956 or 59.00 per cent. There were ten contestants for the seat of which 6 were Independent candidates, one from the Jan Sangh, one from the Congress, one from the Communist Party of India (M) and one from the P.S.P. An Independent candidate who secured 16,562 votes or 41.5 per cent was declared elected.

The Sadulpur Constituency extended upto the confines of the Rajgarh Tahsil.³ Out of the total voting population of 71,797, the number of valid votes was 45,984 or 64 per cent. There were four contestants, one was put up by the Swatantra Party, one by the Congress Party, one by the Communist Party of India (M) and one was Janta Party candidate. The seat was secured by the Congress candidate who got 18 385 or 39.9 per cent votes.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Congress Party

As already stated in Chapter II, the Praja Parishad of pre-Independence days merged into the Indian National Congress and came to be called the District Congress Committee after Independence.

Right from its birth in 1942, it began to strive for freedom of speech and political reforms, agitated inside and outside the State for the establishment of a popular Government.

The ruler of the State, however, agreed to the formation of a mixed Government, composed of his ministers and an equal number

1 *Rajasthan Gazette, op cit*, p. 6

2 *ibid*, p. 6

3 *ibid*, p. 6

of members of the public representing various interests. This mixed Government, however, could not function successfully.

The present District Committee has a President, Vice-President and a Treasurer duly elected. Basic units of the organisation are the villages which move in vertical-line via the points of tahsils to the centripetal point of the organisation at the district level. In a word, the organisation is a well-knit one covering the total population of the district.

The party sponsored five candidates for the five seats allotted to this district in the Elections of 1952. Of the five, three candidates were declared elected. Due to changes in the delimitation scheme, the district was authorised to send six candidates in the Elections of 1962 and 1967. The electorate returned four in the 1962 and one in 1967 elections.

For the Parliamentary elections 1952, the region of the district was bracketed with other contiguous regions, thereby dividing the area in order to form two constituencies for returning three members of the Parliament. The Congress Party candidates contested for all the three seats and captured two of them. Similar results were achieved by the Party in subsequent two General Elections of 1957 and 1962. In 1967, the Party could not capture any seat though it put up candidates.

Jan Sangh

The Party work was started in the district with the formation of all India Bhartiya Jan Sangh in 1951 and its candidates contested all the four Assembly General Elections. The party won 4.8 per cent votes in the First, 7.6 per cent in the Second, 2.6 per cent in the Third and 13.7 per cent in the Fourth General Elections. The figures show that the Party had gained ground in the Fourth General Elections and was next to the Congress. As regards the Parliamentary Elections (1967), the Sujangarh assembly constituency of this district bracketed with the other parts of Sikar district to form the Sikar Parliamentary constituency. The Jan Sangh candidate annexed the seat by obtaining 35.92 per cent votes.

Swatantra Party

The office of this party in the district was established in 1964, with an initial membership of 120 only. It claims to have 300 members now (1966-67).

The party sponsored its candidate for the Sadulpur Assembly seat in 1967. The candidate could only secure 6977 votes. Due to delimitation of constituencies for the Parliamentary elections in 1962 and 1967, the portions of this district were bracketed with Ganganagar (in 1962) and Jhunjhunun (in 1967). The Party's candidate obtained 58.4 per cent (in 1962) and 42.40 per cent (in 1967) votes and secured the seat in 1967. The Party has yet to gain ground in the major parts of the district.

Communist Party

The Party sponsored in the Third General Elections its four candidates for Churu, Dungargarh, Sardarshahr (all 'General' seats) and Sadulpur (S.C. reserved seat) constituencies, obtaining 9.6 per cent votes in the district. It could not annex any seat for its candidate.

Before the Fourth Elections, the Communist Party of India had been bifurcated to form two separate parties viz., Communist Party of India (Rightist) and Communist Party of India (Marxist). Consequently in the Elections (1967), C.P.I. (Rightist) proposed its candidate for one seat and C.P.I. (Marxist) for two. The first group of the party could secure only 6.05 per cent votes, while the second 0.63 and 23.10 per cent in their respective constituencies or 5.25 per cent of the total voting in the district. These figures, when compared with those of the Third General Elections for the Assembly show that the division of the Party has decreased its influence.

Praja Socialist Party

The District Office of the Party was established on 23rd September, 1949 with an initial membership of 40 only. It claims to have 1000 members now (1967).

Formerly this Party, known as Socialist Party had proposed two candidates for the First General Elections but could obtain only 9.0 per cent and 2.3 per cent of votes for them. Then, under its new nomenclature viz., Praja Socialist Party, it sponsored one candidate for the Third General Elections but he obtained only 4.41 per cent votes in his constituency or 0.7 per cent in the district. For the Fourth General Elections, it put up two candidates but they were both unsuccessful one of them getting only 1.70 per cent and the other only

2.98 per cent votes. When seen from the point of view of total voting in the district, it could secure only 0.7 per cent votes. It could not make much headway in the district.

Krishikar Lok Party and Ram Rajya Parishad

The Krishikar Lok Party sponsored three candidates for the First General Elections and obtained 12.3 per cent votes in the district and lost.

Likewise Ram Rajya Parishad put up one candidate for the First Elections in 1952 but secured 4.1 per cent votes only.

Both these parties it seems then went into background as nothing was heard of them in the succeeding three elections.

The popularity of the various political parties can be assessed on the basis of their performance in the four Assembly Elections. The following table gives percentage of votes secured by each party in the district.

| Party | Percentage of votes secured in General Elections | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1952 | 1957 | 1962 | 1967 |
| Congress | 40.7 | 30.8 | 37.6 | 31.13 |
| Communist (R) | - | - | 9.6 | 1.00 |
| Communist (M) | - | - | - | 4.25 |
| Jan Sangh | 4.8 | 7.6 | 2.6 | 13.66 |
| Socialist/Praja Socialist Party | 2.8 | - | 0.7 | 0.68 |
| Ram Rajya Parishad | 4.1 | - | - | - |
| Independent | 35.3 | 61.6 | 49.5 | 46.57 |
| Krishikar Lok Party | 12.3 | - | - | - |
| Swatantra | - | - | - | 2.71 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The following table shows the number of candidates who contested and were elected to the last four General Elections of the Legislative Assembly.

| Parties | Years of Election | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|------|---|------|---|------|---|
| | 1952 | | 1957 | | 1962 | | 1967 | |
| | C ¹ | E ² | C | E | C | E | C | E |
| Congress | 5 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| Communist | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 3 | - |
| Jan Sangh | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 3 | 1 |
| Socialist | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ram Rajya Parishad | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Praja Socialist | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Krishikar Lok Party | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Janta Party | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Swatantra Party | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Independents | 14 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 16 | 2 | 21 | 4 |
| Total of the District | 27 | 5 | 26 | 6 | 29 | 6 | 37 | 6 |

The following table gives the turn-out of electorate during the General Elections, held so far in the district:

| District | Per cent Turn-out | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------|---|------|---|-------|---|
| | 1952 | 1957 | Increase or decr- ease in vote con- sciousness over 1952 | 1962 | Increase or decr- ease in vote con- sciousness over 1957 | 1967 | Increase or decr- ease in vote con- sciousness over 1962 |
| Churu | 45.4 | 42.6 | -2.8 | 57.8 | +15.2 | 63.59 | +5.79 |
| Rajasthan | 38.2 | 41.2 | +2.9 | 52.6 | +11.4 | 58.19 | +5.84 |

As regards the electoral turn-out in the Fourth Elections the district stood 7th in the districts of Rajasthan. Thus it is evident from the figures in the table above that the Fourth Elections proved to be most popular and the masses were found more politically conscious and interested in exercising their franchise.

1 C = Candidates contested

2 E = Candidates elected

Two women candidates also contested the Legislative Assembly seats in 1957 from Churu and Sujangarh constituencies. The former obtained 11.5 per cent and the latter 33.2 per cent votes, and was successful. In subsequent General Elections, women did not contest the election.

NEWS PAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Weeklies

1. **LOK CHAKSHU**—First published in 1965 as a weekly, it is published and edited by Shri Radhakrishna Goel, owner of Prakash Printing Press, Sardarshahr. It is priced twelve paise per copy and has 525 subscribers. The subject matter of the weekly is news and current affairs of local importance.

2. **NIRYAM**—A Hindi weekly, first published in 1952¹ is edited, published and owned by Shri Surya Prakash Shastri. Its printer is Shri Mota Ram Swami who gets it printed at Vishwa Jyoti Press, Ratangarh. It contains news, comments and current affairs of general importance. Its price is 25 paise per copy and has 2,500 subscribers.

3. **TUFAN**—A Hindi weekly, first published in 1956, is edited, published and owned by Shri Puran Mal Chulet. It is printed by Sadanand Sharma, at Bhawani Printing Press, Churu. Its total circulation is 2,000 which include 373 copies distributed free of cost. It covers the news and current affairs of local importance and is priced at 15 paise a copy.

4. **YUG CHARAN**—It is a Hindi weekly, started in 1961, and published by Nirmal Kumar Surana, who is also its printer, editor and owner. It is printed at the Yug Charan Mudranalaya, Sardarshahr and published from Sadulpur. The total number of copies sold is 1,212 and that of free distribution 229. Its price is 20 paise per copy. It contains news and current affairs of local importance.

5. **YUVAK**—A Hindi weekly, priced 15 paise per copy, first published in 1960, is owned, edited and published by Shri Som Dev Sharma. It covers the news of local interest and is printed at Sadhana Press, Ratangarh, by Mota Ram Swami.

1. The information about the year of this periodical published in *Press of India*, Part II, 1965, p. 428 is 1955, which appears to be a printing mistake.

Fortnightlies

6. **AGNIPUNJA**—This fortnightly Hindi period cal first published in 1953, is printed at Sadhana Press, Ratangarh by the printer Shri Mota Ram Swami. Shri Jagdish Sharma is its editor and publisher and owner. It deals with the news and affairs of local importance and is priced 25 paise per copy.

7. **CHERO**—A Hindi fortnightly, first published in November 1965, is owned edited and published by Shri Banwari Lal Sharma at Sadhna Press, Ratangarh. The subscription per copy is 55 paise. It contains news of local importance.

8. **JAN YUDHA**—A Hindi fortnightly, first published in December 1964, is owned, edited, published and printed by Shri Madav Sharma at Bhawani Printing Press Churu. Its yearly subscription is Rs 10/- and it contains news of local importance.

9. **LOK TANTRA**—The only English fortnightly, published from this district by Shri Jagdish Chandra Sharma who is its editor also. Its owner and printer, Shri Sita Ram Maharshi, gets it printed at Sharda Printing Press, Ratangarh. Its price is 25 paise per copy. It covers the local news, and also some literary matter. Its subscribers are 1,100. The publication was started from 1st January, 1967.

10. **RAJASTHAN REPORTER**—A Hindi fortnightly, first published in 1963, is edited, owned and published by Trilok Sharma from Dungargarh. Its printer, Gajanand Swami, gets it printed at Sadhana Press, Ratangarh. It is priced 25 paise per copy. It contains news and other information of local importance.

11. **SUMATI**—First published on 27th October, 1956, by its editor and owner, Shri Sumer Mal Kothari, it is now printed by Sadanand Sharma at Bhawani Press, Churu. Its price per copy is 25 paise. Its circulation is 700 which includes 200 copies distributed free of charge. This fortnightly deals only with the local news and current affairs at the State-level.

Monthlies

12. **KURJAN**—It is the only monthly magazine published from Churu. Its publication started in 1950. It is published in Rajasthan and happens to be one of the two monthlies of Rajasthan in the language. Its editor, publisher and owner is Shri Adbhut Shashtri,

who gets it printed at Sadhana Press, Ratangarh through its printer, Shri Mota Ram Swami. It is a cultural and literary magazine and priced at 50 paise per copy.

13. OLMON—This monthly, published in Rajasthan, is edited and published by Shri Kishore Kalpanakant. It is printed at Sharda Printing Press, Ratangarh. Its subscription per copy is one rupee.

Other newspapers and periodicals

Besides the local newspapers and periodicals mentioned above, the important national dailies are sold here in good numbers viz., 'The Hindustan', 'The Hindustan Times', 'The Navbharat Times', 'The Indian Express', 'The Times of India'. The Rajasthan Hindi dailies 'Rashtradoot', 'Rajasthan Patrika', and 'Navjyoti' (published at Jaipur) are widely read in the district.

Other popular weekly papers are also in demand such as 'Dharmayug' (Bombay), 'Saptahik Hindustan' (Delhi), 'Yojna' (Delhi), 'Illustrated Weekly' (Bombay), 'Blitz' (Bombay), 'Link' (Delhi), and 'Dinman' (Delhi).

Among the popular monthly magazines are 'Sarikā' (Bombay), 'Sarita' (Delhi), 'Navneet' (Bombay), and 'Niharika' (Agra).

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The Indian Red Cross Society

The State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society has been doing Social Service humanitarian work in the district, through the district branch under the presidentship of the Collector. In addition to the normal activities, special attention was paid to the relief work as soon as the district was declared as a famine stricken area in 1965-66. Powdered milk, multi-vitamin tablets, peas and many other things were distributed to the people under the direction and supervision of the Collector and the Medical Officer in the district.

The Red Cross branch has been running also a training school at Ratangarh having a two years' course for the training of Auxiliary Nurses-Midwives. During the course of training, as per rules of the Society, every trainee gets a stipend of Rs. 60 - per month. This training would undoubtedly help to remove shortage of trained medical personnel in the area.

Public Libraries

The district has a considerable number of public libraries, managed by trusts and important public persons. There was a movement to open libraries in the late twenties of this century, initiated by some enthusiastic workers, which resulted in the formation of a net-work of libraries in the district. Following are the names of the important libraries which were existing in the district in the year 1967: 1 Churu Sarva Hit Karini Sabha, 2. Surana Library, Churu, 3 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Ratangarh, 4 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Sujangarh, 5 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya Sardarshahr, 6 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Dungargarh, 7 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Rajaldesar, 8 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Bidasar, 9 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Chhaoar, 10. Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Ratangarh, 11. Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Taranagar, 12 Sarvajanika Pustakalaya, Rajgarh

Jila Krishaka Samaj, Churu (Farmer's Forum)

Under the auspices of the Rajasthan Krishaka Samaj, a district branch was started on 3-11-1960 at the headquarters of the district. The Samaj manages its affairs through an elected managing body having a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer as the office-bearers

The Samaj gives opportunities to the farmers of the district to promote their welfare by learning new scientific techniques and skill for their profession. With this aim in view, they hold seminars to discuss their problems. The Government extends to them the necessary co-operation.

Rajasthan Banjara Sangh—District Branch

The Rajasthan Banjara Sangh has its branches at such district headquarters, as have Banjara population. The district branch of this Association was established in 1966 at the headquarters of the district. Its aims are to rehabilitate the Banjaras, provide education to their children, etc and other essential facilities. The work of the Association is in its infancy. It claims to have a membership of approximately 500

Rajasthan Scouts and Guides Association, Churu Branch

Under the supervision and control of the Rajasthan Scouts and Guides, Jaipur, a district branch at the district headquarters functions with the aim and object of encouraging co-operation and

fostering feelings of fellowship, character-building and discipline among the people both young and old, irrespective of sex. Three sub-branches at Churu, Rajgarh and Sujangarh, under the control of three sub-district commissioners, function under the general guidance of the Commissioner, who, like other officers, works honorarily.

This association trains its members as scouts and guides. Camps, hikes and other programmes are organised at regular intervals. The scouts and guides of this district branch participate in the Annual Meet where the best scouts and guides are honoured.

The scouts and guides have also worked in collecting funds for the famine-stricken people of Bihar. Besides this, scouts, organise to render good service on occasions of fairs in the district which has been highly spoken of by the people.

The number of scouts and guides in the district as in the year 1966-67 was as follows

| | Scouts | Guides |
|------------|--------|--------|
| Churu | 1,350 | 240 |
| Rajgarh | 657 | 25 |
| Sujangarh | 1,085 | 263 |
| Dungargarh | 583 | 174 |

Defence Efforts

At the time of the Chinese aggression in 1962 and Indo-Pakistan war in the year 1965, the people of this district rose as one man to oppose the enemy.

Like the other districts this district also, during war with Pakistan contributed a good quantity of gold, silver and cash over five lac rupees to the National Defence Fund.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Churu Town

Churu town is a place of historic importance because it was the scene of many encounters between the *Thakurs* of Churu and the rulers of Bikaner which culminated into its siege by the forces of the Bikaner State in 1818 A.D. The town is said to have been founded by a *Jat* named Chuhru in 1620 and named after him. It lies in 28°18' latitude north and 74°58' longitude east and is the headquarters of the district of the same name. It is connected both by rail and road with Jaipur, Delhi, Bikaner and Jodhpur. It is inhabited by 41,7127 persons (1961 Census) and surrounded by sand dunes of the Thar desert. Churu is the home of many wealthy persons having business connections all over India. It has a small fort which is believed to have been built by Khushal Singh in the year 1739 A.D. The fort is now in a dilapidated condition, having, however, a few Government offices within it. Besides the fort, there are a few other tourist attractions in the town. A *Jain* temple inside the town, built by one Rishi Karan Yati, is famous for its idols and golden work. A rare collection of old manuscripts and paintings preserved in the Surana Library and in Sarvhitkarni Sabha (Lokgachh Jain Upashray), attracts scholars and research workers to the town. There is a Rishikul Brahmacharyashram which was started about a half century ago which is now being run by the Geeta Press, Gorakhpur. A tower built with red stone with inscriptions of couplets from the *Geeta* stands just outside the railway station compound. This tower and a marble clock tower inside the town were built by the Birlas. Besides, primary and secondary schools for boys and girls, there is a degree college called Lohia college named after Late Kanhaiyalal Lohia who built the college and hostel buildings. There is a hospital with facilities for X-ray and beds for indoor patients in the town, in addition to two or three private dispensaries. Piped water supply is available to the inhabitants through the water works run by the State Public Health Engineering Department. Post and Telegraph facilities are adequately provided and there is also a small Telephone Exchange with 32 connections. Most of the Government Departments including the Tahsil office are located in the Collectorate building. A rest house run by the State Public Works Department and a good number of *dharmashalas* meet the requirements of the visitors to the

town. A cinema house and a club are the only source of recreation for the inhabitants. During the last ten years the average annual rainfall of the town has been of the order of 353 mm approximately. A small Municipality looks after the civic amenities and sanitation of the town.

There is an interesting place called Bhani-Nath-Ka-Dhora about 3.2 km. (2 miles) to the north of the Churu town. This place is famous for its large sized idols and scenic beauty. There are two other worth seeing places viz., Sethani-Ka-Zora and Prathrana-Ka-Zora which are located at a distance of four miles in west of Churu and five miles in south of Churu respectively.

Dungargarh

Dungargarh, a small municipal town with a population of 16,323 according to the 1961 Census, is situated between 28°06' north and 74°01' east. It is the head-quarters of the Tahsil and the Panchayat Samiti of the same name and lies on the Delhi-Bikaner line of the Northern Railway. National Highway No 11 also touches the town, which grew up during the reign of Maharaja Dungar Singh of Bikaner (A.D. 1872-1887). Prior to that, two hamlets named Sarsu and Rupalsar existed but the then Maharaja made it the headquarters of the Naib-Tahsildar in A.D. 1880 and laid the foundation of a new township. The town is now inhabited mostly by *Oswals* and *Maheshwaris*. The Municipality maintains a small park and also runs a few primary schools. Two secondary schools, one each for boys and girls, cater to the needs of school going children. Medical facilities are provided to the residents through a Government run dispensary with one male doctor and a lady doctor. It is equipped with beds for 19 in-patients, a maternity ward and an X-ray machine. The town is electrified but the water is available only from wells. Telegraph and telephone facilities are adequately provided by Post and Telegraph Offices and a small Telephone Exchange. A Public Works Department, dak-bungalow and two *dharmashalas* are available to stay in and a temporary cinema house is also operating. There is a police station also in the town. At a distance of about 11.2 km (7 miles) there is a temple of *Bhaironji* in Toliasar where an annual fair is held.

Rajgarh

Situated in the north-eastern corner of the district between 28°39' north and 75° 23' east, it is the headquarters of the Sub-Division, Tahsil and the Panchayat Samiti of the same name. At the time of the 1961

Census, the inhabitants of the town numbered 18,136. It is a railway junction and lies on the Delhi-Jodhpur and Delhi-Bikaner branches of Northern Railway. A branch line connects the town with Hanuman-garh. It lies on National Highway No 11 and is connected by road with Delhi-Bikaner and Churu.

The town was founded by Maharaja Gaj Singh in *Sambat* year 1822 (1766 A.D.) and was named after his son, Raj Singh. A small fort was built during the reign of Maharaja Gaj Singh which, though lying in a dilapidated condition, houses the offices of the Sub-Divisional Officer, the Tahsildar and the judicial lock-up. The town is electrified and there is a small water-works. A few small scale industries like hosiery, aluminium utensils, plastic goods, tin boxes and buckets etc., add to the economic betterment of the area. The items manufactured by the Plastic industry of the town include spare parts for textile machines which are exported to Bombay and Ahmedabad. The town possesses a Post and Telegraph Office, a Telephone Exchange with 16 connections, separate secondary schools for boys and girls, a rest house run by the Public Works Department, seven *dharmashalas*, a municipal park, a public library and a club. It also has a Municipality to look after the civic amenities. Medical facilities are provided both by the Government as well as private agencies. There is a Government hospital with 50 beds besides one 8-bed dispensary. Facilities for X-ray and screening are available in the hospital. There is also an Eye hospital and a few dispensaries run by private doctors.

At a distance of about 16 km (10 miles) from the town, there is a place called Dadreva which is believed to be the birth-place of *Gogaji*, a Chauhan Saint. On the 9th of every *Bhadon* (August), a fair is held in his honour.

Ratangarh

The town was originally founded by Maharaja Surat Singh (A.D. 1787-1828) on site of a village named Kolasar in the last quarter of the eighteenth century but was given its present name by Maharaja Ratansingh (A.D. 1828-1851), who replanned it to give it the present shape. It is situated between 28°05' north and 74° 37' east and is the headquarters of the Sub-Division, the Tahsil and the Panchayat Samiti. According to the Census of 1961, the population of the town was 26,631.

The town is well planned as compared to other towns of Churu district and possesses a broad bazar. Some fine houses and a few temples, of which the *Jain* temple is very important are worth seeing. A small old fort, presently accommodates some Government offices. A grid sub-station of the Bhakra complex has been built near the town which, besides electrifying the town, serves also the adjoining areas. Wells are the main source of water supply though piped-water is also available from a water-works in the town. A small Municipality looks after the civic amenities within its jurisdiction. Post and telegraph requirements are adequately available and there is a Telephone Exchange with 34 connections. The town is connected with Sardarshahr, Sujangarh, Bikaner and Churu by road and is an important junction on Delhi-Jodhpur and Delhi-Bikaner lines. For medical facilities there is a hospital with an accommodation of 90 in-patients, and a few dispensaries. The hospital is equipped with an X-ray plant also. For visitors to stay, there is a rest house run by the State Public Works Department and 23 odd *dharmashalas* in the town. Taxis, cars and cycle-rickshaws provide the means of conveyance. There are a cinema house and two clubs, a secondary school for boys and girls and a number of middle and primary schools. An Industrial Training Institute imparts training in various technical trades.

Sardarshahr

Situated in the western part of district between 28° 26' north and 74° 29' east, it is the headquarters of the Tahsil and the Panchayat Samiti of the same name. The town was named after Maharaja Sardar Singh (A.D. 1851-1872) who built a fort here even before his accession. After the establishment of Gandhi Vidhya Mandir in the year 1950, which is being run to secure a happy blending of education and social service, the town has come in lime light. This institution was started in the sacred memory of Mahatma Gandhi and provides education and training from nursery and primary to post-graduate stage. A Dairy-cum-Breeding Centre, an Agriculture Research Centre and an Arid-Zone Research Centre are its other important features. Besides, there is the Ayurved Vishwa Bharti, a pioneer institution in the field of Ayurved and health, which provides education, training extension and research facilities in Ayurved.

The town possesses a small fort wherein a number of Government offices have been accommodated. The town has electric light, and also a piped water supply from a reservoir controlled by the State

Water Works Department The market of the town, perhaps one of the best in the district, provides shopping facilities for fashionable and modern items. The population mostly consists of *Oswal Jains*, from amongst whom a few wealthy families carry on business in Calcutta and Bombay. Adequate post and telegraph facilities including a Public Call Office are available in the town. It is connected both by rail and road with Churu and Bikaner and lies on National Highway No. 11 connecting Agra and Bikaner. A cinema house is also operating in the town. About 13 *dharmashalas* and a rest house of the Public Works Department provide staying facilities. Tongas are available for conveyance purposes. There is a Primary Health Centre provided with 8 beds for indoor patients and a four-bed maternity ward. There are X-ray and screening facilities as well.

Sujangarh

Founded by Maharaja Surat Singh (A.D. 1787–1828) and named after Sujan Singh, the twelfth chief of Bikaner, the town is situated in the southern part of the district between 27°42' north and 74°28' east. The old name of the place was Harbuji-ka-Kot and it was obtained by the then Maharaja from a Sandwa *Thakur* in exchange of a grant, elsewhere. It was then developed into a town by offers of numerous inducements to the new settlers in the form of land on concessional rates, graduated house tax according to means, etc. The town is at present the Tahsil headquarters and is connected with the District headquarters both by rail as well as a metalled road. It is also connected by road with Jaipur and Bikaner and by rail with Delhi, Jodhpur and Bikaner. Sujangarh has Post and Telegraph offices, a Telephone Exchange with 33 connections, a hospital with an accommodation for 50 in-patients and X-ray facilities, a Public Works Department rest house, ten good *dharmashalas*, a public library, a cinema and a police station. A small Municipality looks after roads and sanitary facilities within its jurisdiction. The town is electrified and piped water is available, supplied from water works. So far as educational facilities are concerned, a degree college for girls, two higher secondary schools, one high school, two middle schools and ten primary schools meet the requirements of the town and the neighbouring areas. The population according to the Census of 1961 was of the order of 30,761. Facilities of taxi cabs and tongas are there. Most of the houses within the town are *pucca* and the population is predominantly of *Banyas*, who have their major business transactions outside the State. A few of them are multi-millionaires.



Architecture of a Jain temple at Sujangarh

From A.D. 1868 to 1883, Sujangarh was the headquarters of the British Political Officer, with his office in a specially-built palatial bungalow on a sand-hill in the west of the town. It now houses a school and a dak bungalow. The town possesses a small fort which is in a well maintained condition and various Government offices are housed in it. A temple inside the town called *Singhi* temple is remarkable for a marble idol with fine golden work. A cenotaph of Rao Bidha constructed on the embankment of a pond in village, Gopalpura at a distance of about 9 km from the town, is a tourist attraction and a picnic spot. There is a legend that the village stands on the site of a once famous city of Daronpura founded by Darona Acharya, the *guru* of the *Pandavas*. There is also a game sanctuary containing mostly black bucks, and a lake known as *Tal Chhapar* where salt is manufactured. During the year 1966-67 more than a lac quintals of salt was manufactured here.

Taranagar

Formerly known as Reni, the town is said to have been founded by Raja Reni Pal some centuries ago. At the end of the fifteenth century Rao Bika expelled the *Chayal* Rajputs who were then in possession of this town and the adjoining villages, and annexed the area to his territory. The town is, at present, the headquarters of the Tahsil administration and is situated between 28°40' north and 75°02' east. It has a population of 10,406 (1961 Census). It is a walled-town, and the fort, built by Maharaja Surat Singh is perhaps the best in the district. There is a beautiful *Jain* temple built in the *Sambat* year 999 (A.D. 942) which looks as if built of yesterday. An annual fair takes place at the temple of *Ramdeo* in the town. There are some cenotaphs around the town built in memory of heroes and *Sadhus*.

The town possesses a dispensary with four beds, a Post and Telegraph Office, a Public Call Office, a secondary school and three middle schools, besides some primary schools. There are rest house of the Public Works Department five *dharmashalas*, a small municipal park and a police station. The town is electrified and facility of piped water supply is also available. It is situated on the National Highway running between Delhi and Bikaner. Its distance from Churu is about 67 km (42 miles) by a metalled road. Tongas and also a few taxis are available for conveyance. It is a small business centre and exports raw hides and *chhagals* (leather water-bags) in large numbers.

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GLOSSARY OF LOCAL WORDS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Abadi</i> | Habitation |
| <i>Ahimsa</i> | Non-violence |
| <i>Angarkha</i> | A sort of tight short coat |
| <i>Avtar</i> | Incarnation |
| <i>Bandia</i> also <i>Bandi</i> | A waistcoat |
| <i>Bhajan</i> | Devotional songs; a session of such songs |
| <i>Borla</i> | An ornament of the forehead symbolising wedlock (living husband) |
| <i>Burqa</i> | Veil, a garment for Muslim woman |
| <i>Churma</i> | A preparation of mashed <i>Chapati</i> |
| <i>Chundri</i> | A female garment worn over shoulders |
| <i>Chundar Payjama</i> | Tight pyjama |
| <i>Devali</i> | Cenotaph |
| <i>Dholan</i> | A female of the musician class known as Dholis |
| <i>Gotra</i> | Clan |
| <i>Gulal</i> | Coloured powder, like vermillion |
| <i>Halka</i> | Jurisdiction |
| <i>Hamal</i> | Porter |
| <i>Havalat</i> | Prison |
| <i>Hundi</i> | A promissory note |
| <i>Izara</i> | Letting of something on lease |
| <i>Kanyadan</i> | The ceremony of giving away girl in a Hindu marriage |
| <i>Katha</i> | Religious text reading, also a session of <i>Katha</i> |
| <i>Khatedar</i> | A type of agricultural tenant |
| <i>Kheer</i> | A sweet dish containing mainly of rice boiled in milk |
| <i>Kirtan</i> | Religious song or devotional song. Also a session of <i>Kirtan</i> |
| <i>Kund</i> | Water reservoir |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Mahal</i> | A revenue division during medieval period |
| <i>Mandi</i> | Market, especially for agricultural produce |
| <i>Mehar</i> | A sum of money promised to be paid to the bride by the bridegroom at the time of marriage among Muslims |
| <i>Namaz</i> | Prayer among Muslims |
| <i>Nazrana</i> | A present |
| <i>Pagra</i> | A headgear, longer and narrower than turban Also <i>Pag</i> |
| <i>Pardah</i> | Veil, hence <i>Pardah-Nashin</i> , one who observes <i>Pardah</i> |
| <i>Qazi, Kazi</i> | A Muslim priest |
| <i>Ram Lila</i> | A ballet on the life of Lord Rama |
| <i>Ras Lila</i> | A ballet depicting scenes from the life of Lord Krishna |
| <i>Rohi</i> | Vermilion |
| <i>Roti</i> | Un-leavened bread |
| <i>Sagai</i> | Betrothal |
| <i>Sapinda</i> | Collateral |
| <i>Seera</i> | A preparation like pudding |
| <i>Tahmad</i> | Loin cloth |
| <i>Tilak</i> | A mark applied on the forehead |

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